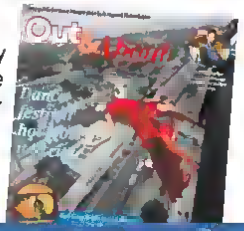
Oxfordshire Guardian
City & Kidlington

Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford



Thursday, February 22 - Wednesday, February 28, 2018 oxfordshireguardian.co.uk Free

Where did I leave trumpet and potatoes? Page 6

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Don't miss life's precious moments

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Hearing loss left untreated affects social and working relationships, emotional health, mental ability, and physical health. Hearing often declines gradually and the person may not realise how much it has deteriorated. This creates stress and miscommunication at home and work and affects quality of life, productivity and self-confidence.

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The Better Hearing Exhibitions unite leading hearing aid experts in your local area for an event dedicated to those with hearing concerns.

These interactive events, held at venues in your area, are an ideal opportunity for anyone to take advantage of a **FREE Hearing Test**, plus our **Video Otoscope** technology which gives you the opportunity to see what's going on inside your ear via a colour monitor.

You can also see, try and hear the latest technology with live demonstrations of your ideal hearing aid and benefit from friendly and professional advice on improved hearing. Whether you have questions about how to care for your ears, you're worried that earwax may be affecting you, or you'd like to find out how good or bad your hearing is, these exhibitions are a simple way to find out.

The Better Hearing Exhibition will be at these venues in your area:-

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Chesterton, Bicester, OX26 1UE

Wednesday 7th March
STEVENTON HOUSE HOTEL
Milton Hill, Steventon, Abingdon, OX13 6AB

Thursday 8th March
THE SPREADEAGLE
Cornmarket, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2BW

OTHER VENUES IN YOUR AREA
Monday 5th March, **HOLIDAY INN OXFORD**
Peartree Roundabout, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 8JD

Wednesday 7th March, **HENLEY HEARING CARE**
28 Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames, RG9 2AU

These events are always very popular with local residents therefore appointments are necessary. Unfortunately, if you do not have an appointment we will not be able to see you, so please call to book today.

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The Better Hearing
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Special Offer

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Most Common Cause of **Hearing Loss**

Hearing loss can happen to anyone who is, or has been, exposed to loud noises if the negative conditions are right For the adolescent and baby boomer segments of the population, the most common cause of hearing loss is prolonged, chronic exposure to loud noises. This is called noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL), and is permanent

3 TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HEARING

Avoid harmful noise
Musical concerts and movies offer wonderful experiences but can hurt your hearing Consider wearing hearing protection if you are in loud commercial, industrial, or recreational environments Avoid loud rock concerts – or, at least, wear earplugs if you do attend

Practice healthy lifestyle habits
Making sensible lifestyle choices is great for your overall health and especially your hearing This means refraining from smoking, eating well and exercising to ensure that your body stay in the best possible shape

Get your hearing checked regularly
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Which? Best hearing aid provider overview

Following an extensive survey and the views of over 400 **Which?** members who had purchased hearing aids in the last 3 years, independent retailers came out top with a **customer score of 84%.** This score was based on customer satisfaction and recommendation which included levels of service and aftercare

Better Hearing - **advice you can trust**

Are we qualified?
Our Audiologists hold advanced degrees from accredited universities and have special training in the identification, assessment and non-medical treatment of hearing disorders They complete a full-time internship, pass a demanding national examination and must be fully licensed This makes our Audiologists the most qualified to advise you on your hearing

How long have we been helping people with hearing difficulties?
We have over 35 years of experience and have fitted over ten thousand digital hearing instruments An audiologist who has fitted thousands of patients is more likely to recognise and solve problems Our Audiologists will maximise the potential of your hearing instruments by using all the features of your ideal aid, while the less skilled might fail to activate all the hearing aid's capabilities

How will you determine what is best for my hearing situation?
Our Audiologist will take a detailed history of your hearing problem, your expectations, and lifestyle In addition, a thorough tone and speech testing assessment will be carried out. Measurements for comfortable hearing levels are also tested

Our comprehensive testing is to improve your hearing sensibility and re-establish normal hearing perception

Are there any hearing aid manufacturers you recommend?
As Independent Audiologists, we work with All the hearing aid manufacturers from around the world Every hearing loss is unique and one manufacturer product line may not meet the needs of everyone! As we work with the world's choice, we are in the best position possible to select the correct device that will match your needs

The **Better Hearing** REGIONAL EXHIBITIONS **Special Offer**

Claim your **FREE Exhibition gift** - book your FREE Hearing Test at one of the Better Hearing Exhibition venues **See back page for details.**

The hearing aids I had fitted at the Better Hearing Exhibition are so small and neat that nobody has even noticed that I'm wearing them! The best thing is that I am hearing much clearer even in company or crowded situations Thank you

Book your FREE hearing test at one of our Exhibition venues today on FREEPHONE 0808 168 9640

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Clearer hearing at the **lowest prices**

Want to hear natural sound? Our new CLEAR hearing aid family from Widex lets you hear as close to natural sound as possible

CLEAR hearing aids can communicate wirelessly with each other - just like two ears do. This means that all the functions in your hearing aids are adjusted instantly depending on your listening environment. Meaning that even when soft sounds change to loudar sounds, you still hear with clarity.

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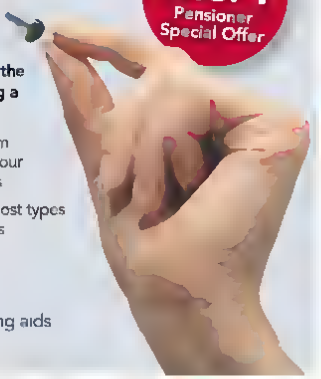
Puretone · WIDEX high definition hearing · SIEMENS · ReSound · oticon PEOPLE FIRST · Starkey

Tiny hearing aids. Huge benefits.

Ask about our **2 for 1** Pensioner Special Offer



Our Invisible hearing aids fit completely inside the ear canal, people will never know you are using a hearing aid.

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- Leaves no visible trace of wearing a hearing aid
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- Works perfectly with phones
- Can be custom designed to your specific needs
- Suitable for most types of hearing loss

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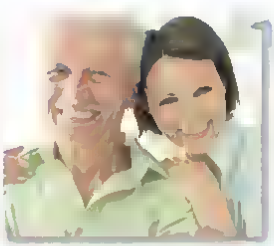
This may be all you need!
- **Discreet design**
- **No hard to use buttons or dials**
- **Comfortable to wear and easy to use**

Ask about our range of spectacle hearing aids including live demonstrations at our Better Hearing Exhibitions



"I have been taking my dad to Better Hearing Exhibitions for several years for his aftercare service and he loves them!

The Audiologists make him feel comfortable and he always hears much clearer after his visit "

Book your FREE hearing test at one of our Exhibition venues today on FREEPHONE 0808 168 9640

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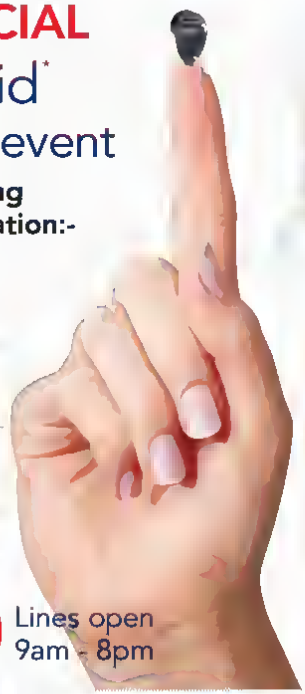

"My wife kept telling me to have my hearing checked, so we went together to the Better Hearing Exhibition I returned home with a full understanding of my hearing problem and I've not stopped weanng my heanng aids since "

Home visits

are also available upon request

If you cannot attend the Exhibition, we would be happy to come and see you in the comfort of your own home, any time, 7 days a week. Please call the freephone number to arrange and appointment.

The Better Hearing Exhibition will be at these venues in your area -

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Chesterton, Bicester, OX26 1UE

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These events are always very popular with local residents, therefore appointments are necessary Unfortunately, if you do not have an appointment we will not be able to see you, so please call to book today

Our FREE Independent Consumer Guide will give you the facts...

Compare and research the latest tiny digital hearing aids, or see, try and hear them during our Exhibition.

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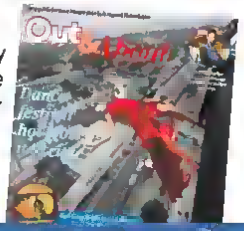
Weekly leisure guide for in and around Oxford



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Extra cash for homeless but parking charges to increase

By Owen Hughes

AN increase in car park charges, higher council tax and more funds to help Oxford's homeless were given the go ahead by Oxford City Council.

Councillors were largely in agreement at Monday's budget meeting with the most contentious issues around price changes for Headington car parks and the Seacourt Park and Ride expansion causing the most consternation.

Council leader Susan Brown said: "We agreed a small increase in some of our suburban car parks in order to keep prices down in our park and ride car parks.

"There were some representations made by Headington shopkeepers, and we made some adjustments to the budget as a result of that.

"It had been the case that people had to pay for two hours parking as a minimum in the Headington car park and we have changed that."

Shoppers will now pay £2 to park for less than one hour and £2.50 for one to two hours, rather than £1.70 for the first two hours.

The move was strongly opposed by Liberal Democrat councillors.

Cllr Elizabeth Wade said: "This is just another salami slice to the Headington district shopping centre.

"Businesses in Headington are obviously under stress as it is, as you can see from the number of charity shops and the reduction in small independent businesses."

Parking charges have been frozen for most stays at park and ride sites but controversial plans to push on with Seacourt Park and Ride will continue.

Cllr Dick Wolff, Green Party said: "Generally there was a consensus around most of the budget and the Seacourt Park and Ride was always going to be the big difference between the two. It's concreting over a large chunk of flood plain and green belt.

"We would have put a halt to it, giving us £4million to spend on things we consider more value for money including enhanced provision for homelessness which the city is proposing but we would have done more."

The budget pledges an increase in spending to combat the city's "severe issues" with homelessness and rough sleeping, allocating a further £167,000 on top of an additional £200,000 a year from 2019/20.

Cllr Brown added: "We feel that we have a budget that is building homes for people who need them in the city and doing our best to tackle the problems of homelessness, that are not problems of our making."

The city share of residents' council tax bills will also increase by 2.99 per cent per year, equivalent to an additional £8.67 for a Band D home.

Doggy divas

Harry and Wilma with Christina Smith Picture: Stuart Harrison Photography

TWO greyhounds are ready to receive a massive round of applause from opera goers when they take to the stage in Oxford this evening.

Wilma and Harry will be hoping to steal the limelight from the stars when they appear in Ellen Kent's Rigoletto at the New Theatre Oxford.

The pair will meet their adoring public when they help with a collection in aid of The Greyhound Trust after the performance.

The doggy duo will be accompanied by Wilma's secretary turned part-time plus-size model owner Cristina Smith from Eynsham.

The 46-year-old said: "It's really exciting. I think Wilma and Harry are really going to enjoy it.

"Harry took part in the production a couple of years ago when it was last in Oxford so he knows what he is doing and I think it will be nice for Wilma to have a friend on stage."

The Oxford Greyhound Trust rescues, rehabilitates and rehomes greyhounds and currently has six dogs ready to rehome.

Email oxford@greyhoundtrust.org.uk or call 01865374792 for more information.

Visit tinyurl.com/yasn75f to donate.

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News

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MPs united, from left, Annaliese Dodds (Oxford East), Robert Courts (Witney); Victoria Prentis (Banbury), Steve Brine (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Primary Care); John Howell (Henley); Ed Vaizey (Wantage) and Layla Moran (Oxford West & Abingdon)

MPs unite over NHS staff shortage

OXFORDSHIRE S MPs joined forces to tackle the issue of NHS staffing shortages.

Oxford West and Abingdon MP Layla Moran secured a debate at the House of Commons on Tuesday to discuss ways to drive recruitment and retention of NHS staff in the county.

During the debate, Banbury MP Victoria Prentis emphasised the need to be creative with recruitment ideas, have greater clarity when considering the domino effect of staffing shortages and communicate more openly and transparently.

Speaking after the debate, Mrs Prentis said: "We need to think outside the box and tackle the problems together. We are in urgent need of a vision for our health service and must keep up the pressure."

Murder charge dropped over death of teenager

A MAN who was charged on suspicion of killing a 16-year-old boy in Oxford has had a murder count against him dropped.

Police dropped the charge against Craig Ford, 33, and continue to investigate the incident.

A murder investigation was launched following the stabbing of Harun Jama in Friars Wharf on January 3.

Four days later, Ford, of Luther Street, Oxford, was charged with murder, robbery, possession of a bladed article and two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

Following a review of the case by the CPS and Thames Valley Police last Tuesday the charges of murder, robbery and possession of a bladed article against Ford were discontinued.

He remains charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

Abre Ashcroft 25, of Luther Street, Oxford, was also charged on January 7 with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs.

Senior investigating officer Andy Howard, said: "The investigation remains very active and I would still ask that anyone with any information relating to this offence gets in touch.

"It is essential that we speak to these people."

Two further arrests were made earlier this month. A 45-year old woman and a 36-year-old man were arrested on suspicion of assisting offenders.

Call 101 if you have any information.

InBrief

Reaper arrests

FOURTEEN people across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire were arrested for evading justice and failing to appear at court.

The wanted criminals were arrested for a variety of offences including assault, burglary and theft.

A total of 96 arrest attempts were made between January 30 and February 1, with 12 men and two women located.

Detective Sergeant Granville Wilhams said Operation Reaper is "set to continue over the coming months"

Tributes to gentleman

COLLEAGUES and friends have paid tribute to popular sweeper driver Richard Hamilton who died last week.

Streetscene operations manager Ian Thompson said the team are "devastated by the sudden loss of Richard", while friends said they would remember the 71-year-old as a "gentleman" and a "great mate"

Mr Hamilton suffered a cardiac arrest while driving his car along a rural road in Sunningwell on Friday.

Emergency shelter

EMERGENCY night shelter will be provided for homeless people in Oxford over the coming nights with temperatures set to plunge below zero.

Oxford City Council activated its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) meaning beds will be provided from this evening (Thursday) until Sunday night. A decision as whether to extend SWEP will be made on Monday.

Night time temperatures in Oxford until Tuesday are forecasted between 1C to -4C.

March 3rd, 2018
10am - 3pm

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ONSITE PARKING
DISABLED ACCESS

Donations cancelled as Oxfam admits mistakes

By Eva Astreinidou

OXFAM S top executives were told they have to get their house in order after 26 new sexual misconduct allegations came to light.

Chief executive Mark Goldring, chair of trustees Caroline Thomson, and Winnie Byanyima, executive director of Oxfam International appeared before the Commons International Development Committee on Tuesday.

Speaking to the committee, Mr Goldring said there have been new allegations since the news of the Haiti sex scandal broke and he admitted he did not read a report into the misconduct of aid workers after he joined the organisation in 2013.

Summing up the session, MP Stephen Twigg said the committee accepts that safeguarding is an issue for the whole sector - not just Oxfam - but that the charity has to get its house in order.

The committee heard how 7,000 people have now cancelled regular donations to Oxfam.

Speaking to the committee, Ms Byanyima said: "I m ashamed. I

have spent my life trying to stand up for women s rights and to fight for people living in poverty. This is painful for me. Some hideous men came into our organisation and abused the trust of the British people the supporters."

In a statement released earlier this week, Oxfam apologised for its 'mistakes' as they released a confidential report to be presented to government.

The report into alleged abuse by some of its staff revealed that three of the men accused of sexual misconduct in Haiti physically threatened witnesses during a 2011 investigation.

The report also describes how Oxfam allowed the charity s country director of operations in Haiti, Roland Van Hauwermeiren, to quietly resign in exchange for helping with the inquiry after he "admitted using prostitutes" at his Oxfam residence following the disaster in 2010.

Seven Oxfam employees left the organisation as a result of their behaviour in Haiti that year, the report revealed.

It added that more needed to be done for tighter safeguarding to stop disgraced aid workers moving to new posts.

But several men linked to the alleged abuse subsequently took up roles at other charities including Mr Van Hauwermeiren.

In an official statement last Friday international development secretary Penny Mordaunt set out demands that Oxfam needs to fulfil before any more taxpayer cash is given to the charity.

These included outlining how the charity will handle any allegations that they report staff involved in this incident to their respective national governments, and that they fully cooperate with the Haitian authorities including handing over all evidence they hold.

Protesters highlight suffering of people in Syria

A PROTEST vigil was held in Oxford to highlight the suffering of people in Syria and stand in solidarity with the people of Afrin.

The Oxford Emergency Committee for Afrin joined forces at the Martyrs Memorial in St Giles on Monday to raise awareness of the attacks on the North West region of the country

The group says 37 villages in the region have been subjected to continuous shelling and bombing by the Turkish State, and that most of the inhabitants have either been killed, injured, or evacuated.

Rojeen Qaqu, spokesperson for the group said: "The medical authorities report that over 100 people have died and over 350 have been severely injured, some with life changing injuries

"We are holding our vigil to highlight the suffering of the people of Afrin and to bear witness to all who have been killed and injured."

The group is calling for three measures to be implemented by the international community, including an immediate ceasefire for all of Syria.

The vigil also honoured the fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces especially the women fighters who have lost their lives over this past month in the defence of Afrin

The Oxford Emergency Committee was set up last month by the Kurdish and Syrian community living in the city

Tha protesters make thair feelings known at Martyrs Mamorial on Manday

Move to stop pop-up brothels

By Eva Astreinidou

THE city council is backing a call to regulate short term let properties and stop them being used as pop-up brothels

The rise in popularity of sites such as AirBnB is leading to an increase in sex trafficking and use of such properties for rowdy parties.

More than 1 200 properties in Oxford are listed on the site and Oxford City Council has now joined in a call to regulate the market

Oxford city councillor Alex Hollingsworth is supporting the calls by a London council for legislation.

Cllr Hollingsworth said "We are seeing increasing numbers of properties being used permanently as short-term lets and with that come increasing problems.

"We know of short-term lets in Oxford being used as 'pop-up brothels associated with sex trafficking, and reports of parties with up to 100 guests suddenly appearing in residential areas."

Cllr Hollingsworth supports the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea Council and says Government needs to be lobbied to introduce legislation to ensure hosts apply for a licence to be included in a register kept by the council.

He added. "What we now see in Oxford, like other cities, is properties essentially being used as hotels or guest-houses but without any of the regulation and safety checks that hotels and guest houses undertake."

A spokesperson for AirBnB said: "We have zero tolerance for this type of behaviour and permanently remove bad actors from our platform. Over 260 million people have travelled on Airbnb and bad experiences are extremely rare.

"The overwhelming majority of Airbnb hosts and guests are good neighbours and respectful travellers but when issues happen, we work to make things right

"We work closely with police forces on criminal behaviour, and assist them with their investigation in any way we can."

They added: "There have been no issues in the area brought to our attention by the council."

There are a number of short term let providers in Oxford and the spokesman said it was inaccurate to call it an AirBnB issue.

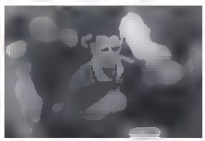
InBrief

Bottle attack CCTV

CCTV footage has been released from an Oxford nightclub fracas after a man received multiple blows to the head with a bottle.

The assault took place last year at the Bridge nightclub on Hythe Street on November 26 at around 3am.

The 23-year old victim was taken to hospital after sustaining head injuries and later discharged



Thames Valley Police said the man in the CCTV footage, *pictured above*, could have "vital information" about the incident.

The CCTV footage can be viewed on YouTube at youtu.be/hSI76GDBfEA

Witnesses should call the non-emergency number on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111

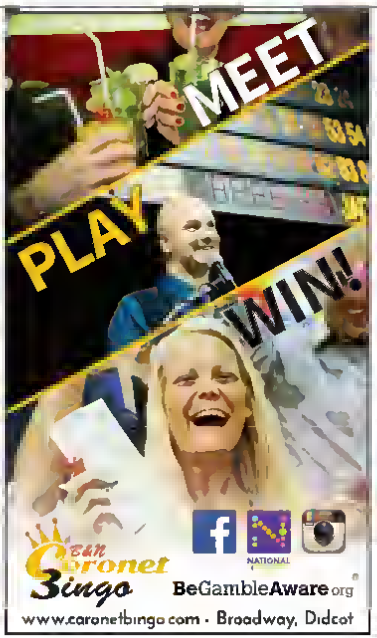
Teenager stabbed

AN Oxford teenager was stabbed in the neck during a fight on Wednesday last week.

The victim, a 17-year-old boy, was involved in a scuffle with a group of people at the junction of Middle Way and Rogers Street in Summertown, where he received stab wounds to his neck and arm.

No details of the offenders have yet been released.

Call 101 quoting reference 7 16/2 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.



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Fuel usage plan for waste plastics

By George Welch

WASTE plastics could be transformed into high-quality fuels using a technique being developed by a new Oxford company

Chinese-backed Oxford Sustainable Fuels wants to commercialise a method discovered last summer by scientists at Oxford University

The spin-out wants to develop the new technique to tackle the growing global plastics crisis by making it easier and more efficient to recycle waste.

Oxford academics believe they have found a way for unsorted, mixed plastics to be transformed into useful transportation fuels.

OSF CEO Dr Tiancun Xiao said the firm would help "transform waste to valuable and needed products"

He added, "To be a part of the solution in helping our global and local environment is a huge motivation for us We believe this to be a key element in the fight against plastic in the oceans by turning waste into a valued raw material."

Oxford University Innovation, the institution s research commercialisation unit, raised £1million to launch OSF

GEM president Dr Kaihua Xu, said. "The OSF team from Oxford have developed a pyrolysis oil upgrading technology that not only solves the problem of organic waste but also provides renewable energy for the future."

There was outcry previously when Sir David Attenborough s Blue Planet programme showed vivid images of plastic pollution.

Tiancun Xiao one of the scientists who developed the technique and chief executive of the new company, added. "We believe this to be a key element in the fight against plastic in the oceans by turning waste into a valued raw material."

In recent years the rate of global plastic production has exploded with the total quantity of plastic produced every year approximately the same as the entire weight of humanity

It is believed that less than 10 per cent of plastic is recycled due to the complexity of sorting, separating and cleaning for the recycling process.

Oxford City Council is in the minority of local authorities which collect mixed rigid plastics such as trays, tubs and pots

InBrief

Knifepoint robbery

TWO men were pinned against a wall and punched several times at an Oxford sports ground as they were threatened and robbed at knifepoint at 4am.

Police appealed for witnesses following the robbery at Risinghurst Sports Ground on February 11.

Two mobile phones, a set of mobile speakers and a black leather wallet containing bank cards, a driving license and cash were stolen.

It happened near the corner of Ringwood Road.

Both attackers are white –one is around 5ft 8in tall and wore a beanie hat the other is 6ft tall and was carrying a knife in his waist band.

Contact police on 101 quoting reference number 43180044207 if you have any information.

Sports ground cash

SUMMERTOWN sports facilities will receive a £50 000 boost after Oxford City Council approved funds for upgrades.

New toilets, a kitchen and club area will be installed at the Five Mile Drive Recreation Ground, doubling as a polling station for Wolvercote

Deputy leader Councillor Linda Smith said. "The Summertown Stars AFC are a real asset to Oxford and I m delighted we will be providing a new facility for their junior teams "

Children choose favourite books

YOUNGSTERS are delving deep into their favourite books as part of this year's Oxfordshire Book Awards

Reception and Y6 children at Rye St Anthony s in Oxford have now read several titles from the 15 on a list assigned in November

They have until the end of March to read them all and vote for the winner and the highly commended book

The Oxfordshire Book Awards have been running for the last 10 years. The awards are voted for entirely by children, who read and nominate their favourite books

Repairs ahead of heritage application

SOMETHING fishy has been going on below the surface at the home of Oxford s iconic rooftop shark ahead of moves to have the feature added to the council's heritage list

Maintenance repairs are currently being made to fix a leak into the house at New High Street, Headington, by Admiral Roofing, before an application is made to add the 25 foot-tall artwork to the Oxford Heritage Asset Register

The fibreglass fish designed by John Buckley 'crashed through the roof tiles of Oxford celebrity Bill Heine in 1986 much to the chagrin of Oxford City Council.

An appeal to the Secretary of State for Environment Michael Heseltine in 1992 halted the council s demands to remove the installation.

Headington councillor Mohammed Altaf-Khan said. "Traditionally there have been opposition s in the past, but now there are maybe only one or two people

Tha infamous shark in Headington Picture Cendwen via Wikimedia Commons

"The majority of people that I've spoken to in Headington and in the New High Street, they think it a quite attractive for the area and brings a lot of tourists "

He added the application will be submitted to the council in the next few weeks

A better way to recycle oil

GETTING rid of unwanted cooking oil has become easier in Oxford with a new scheme

The residue can now be recycled by simply collecting it in a plastic bottle that will fit in your food caddy or red bin.

The idea eliminates the danger caused by pouring it down the sink or the nearest drain.

Breaking down oil with soap and water is not recommended, as the oil can re-solidify and cause drain pipes to get blocked. It can also travel to get into rivers and lakes causing oxygen levels to drop, which can suffocate wildlife.

Recycling and waste driver Paul Cripps and Cllr John Tanner dispose of a plastic bottle of cooking oil using the new method

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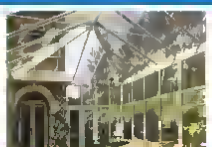

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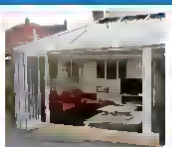

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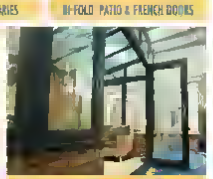

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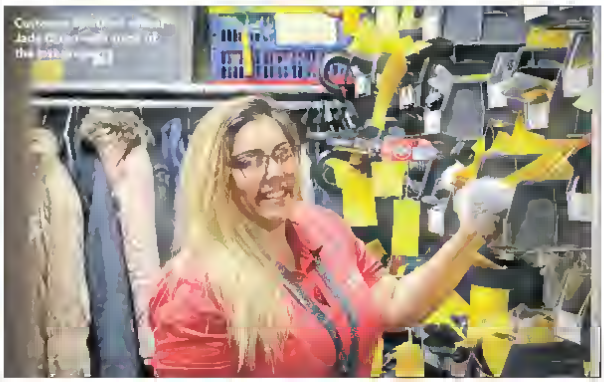

Where did I put that suitcase of spuds?

A SUITCASE containing two mannequins heads another full of potatoes and a rucksack filled with adult toys.

Those are just a few unexpected items left on buses across Oxfordshire last year.

The Oxford Bus Company revealed the weird and wonderful items which were lost by passengers last year.

It said staff recorded more than 4,000 items which were left on its services – but less than 1,000 were reclaimed by passengers.

Other surprising items to be left on buses include a pair of teeth, a trumpet, a Soviet Union hat and a monocle.

A dog skeleton Halloween costume ski sticks and an electric bike were also abandoned.

Jade Dixon customer relations officer said "We always seek to reunite passengers with their belongings and we encourage everyone to check they have their personal items before leaving our buses. Unfortunately a lot of things do get left behind and we hold them for a fixed period in case they are claimed, so it is always worth getting in touch if you've lost something.

"Clothing and mobile phones are commonly left on buses but we do collect a lot of unusual items as well."

Unrecovered items are donated to charities and a large handover of clothes and household goods was made to Sobell House last month.

Bus company employee stole for gambling habit

By George Welch

A BUS employee who scammed his firm out of almost £750,000 has been jailed for four years.

Colin Smart of Crundel Rise, Witney, admitted stealing the cash – £733,737 – from the Oxford Bus Company between April 2011 and March 2017.

The 47-year-old "abused his position as a business analyst at the Cowley-based company to fund his gambling addiction.

Smart stole cash that had been collected from kerbside ticket collectors.

He was one of the staff responsible for recording the money onto a computer system once it had been counted – he then manipulated the computer records to conceal the theft.

Instead, the ill-gotten gains were deposited into his personal bank accounts and used for gambling online.

His gambling losses outweighed his wins and he continued to fund his lifestyle, including expensive cars, by stealing from the company.

Smart, who worked at the company for more than 28 years, had his six-year scam rumbled after money transfer company PayPal flagged up suspicious activity.

The married father-of-one was convicted of fraud by abuse of position, theft by employee and concealing/disguising/converting/transferring/removing criminal property.

He pleaded guilty to the fraud and theft offences at a previous hearing at Oxford Crown Court on October 28 last year and pleaded guilty to the remaining offence last Friday.

The bus company's managing director, Phil Southall, said: "We were deeply shocked and disappointed when we discovered Mr Smart had betrayed the trust we put in him over the 28 years that he had worked for the company.

"We will be robustly seeking to retrieve as much of the money that was taken as we can."

Mr Southall stressed that the company's systems and procedures "have been further tightened", adding: "This is an extremely rare act executed by someone who exploited a loophole that only someone in his position could have discovered."

Brexit bus stopping in Oxford on 'true cost' tour

A BUS emblazoned with 'Brexit to cost £2 800million a week' will park up in Oxford's Broad Street on Monday.

The tour bus, which mocks Vote Leave's campaign-winning red bus that claimed the UK sends the EU £350million a week, will pass through the city as part of a national 33-stop tour.

It will be decorated with figures based on a leaked government report which claimed a hard Brexit would cost the country five per cent of GDP after 15 years.

This is an estimate of the loss of GDP relative to where the economy would have been without Brexit and adds up to more than £1400bn in today's money.

"To put this in context, that is 80 per cent of the NHS budget across the UK," Charles Seaford, one of the organisers, said.

Pro-EU group Oxford for Europe said it is worried about the 'endangered Cowley car industry and the 'at risk' nuclear research at Culham.

The aim of the tour is to get 'soft leave' and undecided voters to ask themselves 'is it worth it?'

The 'Brexit is it worth it' Bus will be outside Balliol College at 2.45pm. The public event starts at 2.15pm.

Douglas House 'rescue mission' unlikely despite strong support

By George Welch

HELEN & Douglas House has said it is "enormously grateful" to the thousands of people who have rallied to save one of its two houses – but stressed it is 'highly unlikely' any rescue mission would be successful.

Our charity of the year expressed its gratitude this week after announcing it will close Douglas House its adult care centre in East Oxford, in August.

The announcement sparked a widespread campaign for government funding, and, as we went to press 46,332 people had signed a petition to 'Save Douglas House

But while the hospice is thankful of the support, Helen & Douglas House emphasised the closure "cannot be reversed in the short term"

Director of fundraising and marketing Hazel Bedford said that even with government money it would not be enough to backtrack on the closure.

A fresh plea asking people to donate more regularly to ensure the survival of Helen House, which provides specialist palliative care for terminally ill children and young people aged 0-18 years old, was made this week.

"We are enormously grateful for the support we have received from our supporters and our families to try and keep Douglas House open," Ms Bedford said.

"Sadly from our perspective the decision to close Douglas House cannot be reversed in the short term without new substantial, sustainable means year-on-year of over £2million a year

"Even if Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group give us a contribution to the care of patients from Oxfordshire this will not be enough to keep Douglas House open and is not guaranteed year-on year"

Ms Bedford stressed the closure was "a last resort" and the charity was "acutely aware of the impact on lives of young adults and their families"

She added. "We do not underestimate the effect this decision will have on everyone and we are truly sorry for this

"The choice was between closing part of the service now or doing nothing and allowing the entire service to close in a couple of years We could not allow this to happen."

Visit tinyurl com/ycgq3ost to donate to Helen & Douglas House.

Helen & Douglas' fundraising efforts are now focused on securing the long term future of Hefan House, which provides specialist palliative care for terminally ill children and young people up to the age of 18, such as the Smith family, pictured here enjoying a craft session

Find out more about what people have been doing to raise funds for Helen & Douglas House >> Page 15

InBrief

Uni staff on strike

STAFF from Oxford University are expected to go on strike today (Thursday) as part of a wave of strikes hitting 64 universities across the UK in a row over pensions.

As many as 42,000 staff at 64 institutions will walk out today and tomorrow in the first of 14 days of strikes that run until March 16

There will be no 'make-up' classes or lectures for students

Oxford Brookes staff are unaffected.

Brothers jailed

TWO brothers have been jailed for 10 months after handling £2,000 worth of presents stolen from an Oxford home on Christmas Eve.

Daniel Webb, 34, and Matthew Webb, 36, both of no fixed address, denied burglary but admitted handling stolen goods

Five bin bags of wrapped gifts toys and clothes were taken from a house in Walton Street Jericho on December 24.

Prosecutors accepted the pleas and not guilty verdicts for the initial count of burglary

Store's security plan

WANTAGE Waitrose wants to install a number plate recognising camera and a ram raid-proof bollard in its car park following a series of ram raids at supermarkets across Oxfordshire to steal cash machines.

View plans at tinyurl.com/ybul73a5

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News

InBrief

Chickens rescued

RABBITS and chickens made it out unscathed after a fire at a farm in Preston Crowmarsh, near Wallingford, tore through storage buildings

The animals were moved to safety by firefighters who battled the blaze at 7 30pm on Thursday last week.

Station manager Gary D anger said. "Our crews worked really hard to make sure that the animals weren t affected by the fire and to try and save as much of the property as possible "

A number of storage sheds poultry runs and stables were engulfed in flames by the time crews from Wallingford, Didcot, Abingdon and Kidlington were on the scene.

Most of the structures were empty and on one was hurt. Specialist fire investigators and the police are still looking into the cause.

BAFTA night glam

ACTRESS Florence Pugh took to the red carpet on Sunday night for the Bafta Film Awards

The 22-year old former St Edward's Cokethorpe and Wychwood schools pupil was one of five nominees for the Rising Star award.

The prize was won by Daniel Kaluuya, who impressed critics for his role in horror film Get Out

Pugh was one of many stars who wore black to the ceremony in support of s campaign against sexual harassment in the industry

Thames Valley Police's recording of crime 'inadequate' as Sponsorship an option for future of the Force horses

PLANS to restore the classic British police helmet to Oxfordshire's frontline officers uniforms have been slammed as "style over substance"

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld recently said the helmets – which could cost around £30,000 to reintroduce in the Thames Valley – would give officers "status" and boost visibility

City councillor Tom Hayes said the commissioner should "think again" before bringing back police helmets for "practically the same cost as a full-time PCSO for a year"

He added: "The Police and Crime Commissioner s plan to boost visibility is a triumph of style over substance

"You don't get visible policing by putting on helmets, you get it by putting more officers on the streets

"When St Clement's residents ask what they're going to see get better for paying an extra £12 on council tax, I have to tell them, nothing.

"The monies raised ensure the police won t face deeper cuts when the police really need extra investment "

A trial of helmets is currently taking place in Reading

A spokesperson for Thames Valley Police said, "The Force keeps uniform needs under review to ensure it continues to meet policing requirements

"This and the views of the Police and Crime Commissioner will also inform this process of deciding any changes to officers' uniforms."

POLICE could have to resort to sponsorship to save the mounted section after the chief constable of Thames Valley Police refused to offer reassurances on the unit s future

Scrapping the division in its entirety by 2019 was considered by the Force at a recent budget meeting in response to financial pressures

An increase in the police portion of council tax spared the horses but a review of its long term future continues – and sponsorship is a possible solution

Chief Constable Francis Habgood met the mounted section earlier this month but, despite acknowledging its role in policing, could not assure its long-term future.

In a statement last week he said: "We agreed that over the next few months they will collate additional data around their deployments the income they generate from other forces and their costs.

"They will also explore opportunities for using special constables within the team and further funding streams, for example through sponsorship. We agreed that we would meet again in October"

A petition urging the Force to retain its horses has picked up more than 1,200 signatures

Mr Habgood added: "I have made no promises about the mounted section

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plans for helmets and future of mounted section criticised

in the future as with the uncertainty about future budgets that would be reckless but I can assure everybody that I am working with the team to ensure that any decision is made using the best evidence around their contribution to policing in Thames Valley"

Sexual offences among the crimes unrecorded

By George Welch

THOUSANDS of reported crimes including rape assault and domestic abuse are going unrecorded by Thames Valley Police, a watchdog has warned.

A damning report, published by Her Majesty s Inspectorate of Constabulary last week, branded the Force as inadequate in its accuracy of recording crimes adding that many victims are being let down.

The assessment of the sub-region, which includes Buckinghamshire and Berkshire as well as Oxfordshire, found that nearly one in five offences (19 6 per cent) were not properly recorded, equating to approximately 35,200 crimes a year

Crimes that are going unrecorded by the Force include sexual offences, domestic abuse and rape

Inspector Zoe Billingham said: "I am disappointed with the quality of crime recording in Thames Valley

"Although the Force has implemented the recommendations from our previous crime recording inspection in 2014, we found that

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber

almost one in five crimes in Thames Valley are not being recorded properly – that equates to approximately 35 200 crimes a year

"I am satisfied that the Force works very hard to ensure that victims of crime, especially vulnerable victims, are safeguarded.

"It now needs to ensure that it records crimes at the earliest opportunity and that there is proper supervision of crime recording decisions"

TVP records around 80 per cent of crimes reported to it, yet thousands of crimes each year go unrecorded.

Inspectors found that 13 900 (30 8 per cent) reports of violent crime, 22 (12 6 per cent) reports of rape and 490 (9 8 per cent) reports of sex offences go inaccurately recorded each year

TVP said it "fully accepts" the grading by HMICFRS and will address concerns raised

Deputy Chief Constable John Campbell said the report "makes for unwelcome reading," adding: ' We accept the findings of HMICFRS and will be working hard over the coming months to ensure that we address their concerns"

Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner Matthew Barber said it is "vital" that victims are supported appropriately when reporting a crime, adding that he was "disappointed" with the report findings.

He added, "Clearly there is work that needs to be done by Thames Valley Police to improve the level and accuracy of crime recording."

The crimes analysed were between February 1 and July 31 last year

Two men sought after knife threat to boy aged 14

A 14 year-old was threatened at knifepoint by two men who demanded to be let into his home.

The incident took place in Abingdon on February 12 at around 9pm down the alleyway connecting Preston Road to Saxton Road.

Two men approached the boy and asked to be let into his house.

When the boy said no they assaulted him before threatening him with a knife.

The pair then fled the scene

The boy suffered injuries to his face but did not require hospital treatment.

Police are now appealing for information.

The first offender is described as a white man, aged between his late teens and early twenties, around 5ft tall, of large build with short brown hair and light facial hair He had a deep voice and was wearing a dark coloured coat with a fur lined hood and jogging bottoms

The second offender is also described as a white man in his late teens or early twenties. He is approximately 5ft 7ins tall, slim with short dark hair He was wearing a black hooded top black trousers and a yellow JD bag with drawstrings

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News

Helping to launch job opportunities

Pop-up business school for all

By Eva Astreinidou

PEOPLE in social housing across Oxfordshire need to be given the tools to thrive, not just survive.

That is the vision behind several projects that are being launched by housing association Soha.

The community-focussed housing provider is now in the fourth year of running its employment training programme Launchpad.

The scheme has gone from strength to strength and is expanding beyond just its tenants to help people think about their options for employment and to support them in taking their next step.

Last week, the provider announced its plans to help launch a pop-up business school at the Orchard Centre in Didcot for a week starting March 19.

Working alongside start-up training company PopUp Soha hopes to help start more than 50 businesses.

The week long, free workshop will teach aspiring entrepreneurs everything they need to know from how to start a business without any money, how to generate sales from social media, to making a website without any technical skills.

Soha's chief executive Richard Peacock said: "I'm really proud that Soha is a community based social business. This is a great step forward for our Launchpad project which has already supported many local people to gain valuable experience and skills."

The programme has been backed by South Oxfordshire and Vale district councils.

Also backed by the European Social Fund and Skills Funding Agency, the free Launchpad programme has enabled more than 100 people to take their next step and gain access to courses and mentoring, learn new skills and gain employment.

This spring, the programme is set to launch two different courses in addition to the PopUp school.

Play-Way, a course that will support people who want to work with children, will be held at the Berin Centre in Berinsfield on February 28, March 7 and 14 from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

In addition, there will be a course inviting people to learn what it is like to work in the care sector – this will be held at the Soha boardroom in Didcot on March 12, 19 and 26 between 9.30am and 2.30pm.

Helping Baby to grow up

A TINY kitten found abandoned in a cardboard box by some shop bins in Carterton has found a new home.

Five-week-old Baby was found all alone by a passing cyclist who heard her desperate meows.

She was taken to Burford animal charity Blue Cross who, as well as naming the kitty gave her some much-needed TLC.

Baby was very thin, covered in fleas and terrified by even the smallest noise or movement, which staff put down to her "terrifying experience" of being dumped outside in the cold.

She is now in the loving care of one of their foster carers where she will grow in confidence in a home environment before being put up for rehoming.

Her foster carer Stacey Calladine said: "When Baby first arrived she was worried by even the smallest noise or movement but taking things at her own pace she has really come out of her shell.

"She is now a bold, brave and friendly kitten who we are very happy to see go off to a loving new home."

Jenna Martyn, senior rehoming manager at Blue Cross, urged people to take animals in the charity if they feel they can no longer look after them. She stressed staff do not judge when animals need to be rehomed.

Blue Cross can be contacted on 0300 777 1570.

InBrief

Cornbury line-up

ICONIC 90s singer Alanis Morissette has been announced as the first headliner of this year's revived Cornbury Festival.

Mavis Staples, Amy MacDonald, Nina Nesbitt and Pixie Lott also join the line-up for the 15th instalment set to entertain festival goers on the weekend of Friday July 13.

Megan McKenna, P.P Arnold, Grainne Duffy Kolars, Southern Avenue, Teo Millenia and The Adelaides complete the list of artists confirmed for Saturday.

The rest of the Cornbury line-up will be announced on March 1.

The festival announced late last year it was making an unexpected return to Great Tew Park near Chipping Norton after initially declaring 2017 would be the last one.

Saturday tickets and weekend tickets went on sale last week at cornburyfestival.com

Growth deal backed

MORE councils have given their backing to the government's £215million Oxfordshire Housing and Growth Deal.

Vale of White Horse District Council cabinet recommended agreeing the deal that could secure £150m of infrastructure funding and £60m for affordable housing.

West Oxfordshire District Council also backed the deal that would support the delivery of around 100 000 homes and deliver major upgrades in key areas such as the A40.

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Day 1 Join our coach this morning on a leisurely journey into South Wales as we head for Pembrokeshire and board the 2.30pm Ferry to Rosslare in Southern Ireland. Arrive in good time for dinner and a relaxing first evening in Ireland.

Day 2 A trip to the city of Kilkenny. On the way we travel through the beautiful scenery of the Nire Valley region.

Day 3 A trip to Ireland's third city of Cork which is a fascinating city and important sea port. On the way to Cork we also stop a while in Cobh (pronounced 'Cove') a very nice, quiet coastal town with a beautiful Cathedral. Cobh is famous as the last port of call of the Titanic on its maiden voyage in 1912.

Day 4. Today is left free so you have a chance to explore Dungarvan at your own pace.

Day 5 We leave after an early breakfast and catch the 9am ferry from Rosslare back to Pembrokeshire then continue home to your original pick up point.

Lawlors Hotel, Dungarvan ★★★

Lawlors Hotel is situated in the heart of the historic town of Dungarvan and near local shops and sights. 84 bedrooms with full facilities, well-presented reception, restaurant and bar/lounge...

Coach departs **Monday 14th May £279**

Price includes: 4 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach, ferry travel and trips out. *Single Room Supp: £75*

Luxury 4 day coach holiday Torquay

4 Days £219

The Headland Hotel is Torquay's highest-rated 3-star hotel and once you've enjoyed their superb hospitality, food and facilities you'll know why!

★ ★ ★

Here's the full details...

Day 1 We arrive at the Headland hotel this afternoon where we stay for 3 nights, including 5-course dinners, sumptuous buffet breakfasts and entertainment each evening.

Day 2 Today we visit the charming small Devon towns of Sidmouth and Dawlish.

Day 3 This morning we see Dartmouth - one of Devon's most picturesque harbour towns.
This afternoon we are back in Torquay to enjoy some time in resort.

Day 4. We leave for home after a last hearty 'Headland' breakfast to see us on our way.

Headland Hotel, Torquay ★★★

- Torquay's highest-rated 3 star hotels...
- Beautiful indoor pool and spa.
- Set in beautiful grounds leading to Cliff top walks with gorgeous views.
- Features: 5-course dinners and nightly entertainment.
- All 78 guest rooms have full facilities. Lift.
- Complimentary Devon Cream tea during your stay.

Coach departs **Friday 13th April & Friday 27th April £219**

Price includes: 3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out. *Single room supplement £21*

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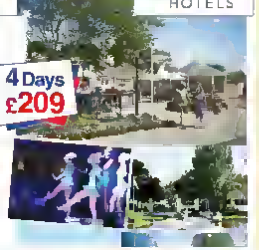
4 Days £209



Accommodation is Chalet-style with family units, TV and telephone, non-smoking bedrooms, with facilities and views.

Here's the full details...

Day 1 We arrive at Lakeside late afternoon. Check in, settle-in and look forward to your first evening of a good dinner and great entertainment later...

Day 2 A trip to the historic city of Winchester. It's a amazing Cathedral one of the oldest in the country (begun in 1079) - a must-see while you're here. Also see the old city centre with its narrow pedestrian streets and overhanging medieval buildings. Of special interest are the Pentice - a group of old shops arcaded at the front, and the Butter Cross - dating back to the 15th century and built with a tax levied on people caught eating butter during Lent.

Day 3 A trip to the pretty riverside town of Arundel - dominated by its beautiful Castle.

Day 4 Enjoy a last, hearty 'Warner's' breakfast to see us on our journey home today.

Coach departs **Friday 27th April £209**

Price includes: 3 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast & trips out. *Single room supplement £20*

Scenic Suffolk 5 day coach holiday

★ ★ ★ ★

5 Days £296

A most relaxing holiday... exploring the idyllic scenery and rich heritage of Suffolk - a county which inspired the famous artist 'Constable!'

Here's the details...

Day 1 Join the coach this morning as we make our way to our hotel on the outskirts of Colchester.

Day 2 This morning we visit the National Trust attraction of Flatford Mill on the River Stour. The Mill and Willy Lott's House are instantly recognisable since they feature in many paintings by John Constable. In the afternoon we visit the beautiful Beth Chatto Gardens. Started from an overgrown wasteland 1960 with poor gravel soil it has been transformed into gardens that are an inspiration to anyone who visits them. You'll learn more about the history and philosophy of Beth Chatto during your visit.

Day 3 This morning we visit the capital of East Anglia - Bury St Edmunds' famous for its beautiful Abbey Gardens and the Angel Hotel where Dickens had Mrs Pickwick stay. This afternoon we stop a while in the lovely, typically English village of Lavenham with its many half-timbered buildings and famous crooked house. *A cream tea in Lavenham is included.*

Day 4 Today we visit one of the finest preated Tudor Houses in England... Kentwell Hall. Not so much a stately home but very much a lived-in and loved family home.
"At times when Kentwell Hall is closed to the public we visit the National Trust property 'Melford Hall' which is nearby.

Day 5 We leave for home after a last hearty breakfast to see us on our way.

Marke Tey Hotel, Colchester ★★★★

See website for full details

Coach departs **Monday 23rd April £296**

Price includes: 4 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach and trips out. *Single room supplement £30*

Dunoon Scottish Highlands

7 Days £366

All the way to Scotland with an overnight stop in Liverpool and 4 nights in the very scenic Scottish Highlands...

★ ★ ★

Here's the full details...

Day 1 On our way to Scotland we stop overnight in the vibrant, friendly city of Liverpool.

Day 2. We head to Gourock in Scotland and take the ferry over to Dunoon. We stay for 4 nights at the Esplanade Hotel.

Day 3 A scenic meandering drive to Loch Lomond. After a while in Loch Lomond we visit the attractive seaside town of Helensburgh.

Day 4. We enjoy another picture-postcard drive through the Argyll forest and along the shores of Loch Fyne and spend time in Inveraray.

Day 5 Today is left free so you can explore Dunoon at your own pace.

Day 6 We leave Scotland and break our journey home with an overnight stay in Lancashire at the Legacy Hotel.

Day 7. We complete the final leg of our journey home.

Esplanade Hotel, Dunoon ★★★

The Esplanade Hotel is located on West Bay Promenade and close to all local amenities. The privately 3 star rated Dunoon's leading hotel is family owned and run by a very friendly caring and professional team, while the hotel is well appointed throughout from the public areas to the guest rooms with all facilities (ensuite TV, phone, hairdryer, tea/coffee) and lift to all floors.

Coach departs **Sunday 29th April £366**

Price includes: 6 nights hotel, dinner, bed & breakfast, coach and ferry travel and trips out as shown. *S.S £75*

Lancashire Coast & Countryside

★ ★ ★

From the beaches of sunny Southport to the rolling green hills of lush, Lancashire countryside...

5 Days £296

Here's the full details...

Day 1 We arrive at our hotel this afternoon where we stay for 4 nights.

Day 2 You'll see Carnforth railway station (the restored and celebrated location of the movie 'Brief Encounter') and then a private tour of historic Leighton Hall - former home of the famous 'Gillow' furniture-making dynasty.

Day 3 We visit Skipton. Frequently voted one of the nicest towns in England, that trip also included.

Day 4 A trip to sunny Southport, a classic Victorian seaside destination.

Day 5 We leave for home after breakfast.

Marriott Hotel, Preston ★★★★

- Set in 11 acres of beautiful grounds near Preston
- Indoor Pool, Whirlpool Sauna, Gym, Spa
- Cocktail Bar
- Horse Bar
- Casual Inn Grill restaurant
- No evening entertainment
- Non-smoking hotel
- 2 Lifts serve all floors (6 and 9 capacity)
- 148 guest rooms ensuite, shower over bath all core deluxe bedding, TV tea/coffee. Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Some ground floor rooms
- 2 dedicated events
- No rooms with walk-in showers

Coach departs **Monday 14th May £296**

Price includes: 4 nights D/B/B basis with coach travel and trips out as shown. *Single room supplement £100*

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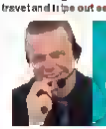


GB TOURS

The ambulance service is asking drivers to slow down after attending this incident in Wheatley

Take care on icy roads plea

MOTORISTS have been warned to slow down on icy roads after this driver in Wheatley ended upside down.

Police and paramedics were called to the accident on Sworford Lane after the driver lost control of his car flipped over and ended up on the grass verge.

The incident happened shortly before 7.30am on Friday

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) tweeted the picture and said. "Take extra care as it is icy in our region. The driver of this car in rural Oxfordshire had a lucky escape earlier and was uninjured. Slow down."

SCAS confirmed the driver escaped unharmed after the single-vehicle collision at the top of the hill near the Little Milton turn off.

Temperatures across Oxfordshire have plummeted again this week.

Thousands experience earth tremor

PARTS of Oxfordshire shook on Saturday afternoon as a magnitude 4.6 earthquake hit south Wales

Tremors from the seismic shaker in Cwmllynfell near Swansea could be felt further north than Leeds and as far east as Suffolk, rumbling through Oxfordshire at around 2.30pm.

The British Geological Survey received reports from several thousand people who felt the quake.

BGS said. "Events of this magnitude only happen in the UK every two to three years."

The earthquake is the largest on mainland Britain since a magnitude 5.2 quake struck in February 2008.

Helping children cope with death

By George Welch

A NEW initiative launched by an Oxfordshire hospice hopes to help youngsters across the county deal with death.

Sobell House's project wants to open up end of life discussions with children in Years 2 to 5.

The Churchill Hospital-based hospice hopes it will help children, teachers, carers and parents better understand dying death and bereavement.

Tim Harrison, clinical lead for Sobell House and consultant in palliative medicine, said. "The issue of not knowing what to say to children when they lose someone often leads to adults saying nothing at all, which can result in a child feeling more isolated and alone.

"Our schools project looks to change this

"We want to open up the discussion and help teachers carers and parents understand how the subject should be approached with children when it's needed to be."

The education programme is in conjunction with the annual national Dying Matters campaign which runs from May 14-20

Each participating school will receive a resources pack with specially designed lesson plans developed by Katie Hannaford, a Year 4 teacher at St John's School in Wallingford.

The teacher, who lost her dad aged 22, said "I've had bereaved children in my classroom and it has been very difficult to know how best to support them and how the matter should be managed with the individual in mind, but also the whole class.

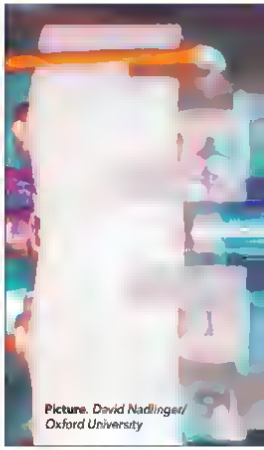
"It breaks my heart to think of a child going through a bereavement and not knowing how to talk about it."

According to Gary Kycroft, chair of the Dying Matters Forum, 20,000 young people in full-time education will lose a parent or sibling while thousands more will lose grandparents, other family members, friends and pets

He said "This initiative is really helping overcome that problem and offering a solution to the challenge we all face when experiencing death of a loved one."

Dying Matters Week will finish with a fundraising 5k For get Me Not family run at Starfield Brake in Kidlington.

Visit tinyurl.com/y8txt3qo for more information and resources



Picture. David Nadlinger/ Oxford University

Tiny dot wins

AN image of a single Strontium atom captured by physicists at Oxford University has won a science photography prize

Shot by David Nadlinger at the Clarendon Laboratory at the university's department of physics the image is described

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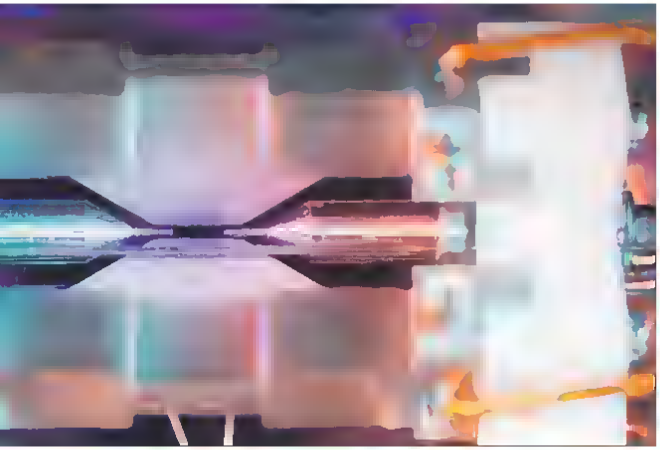

photographer university science prize

as a Single Atom In An Ion Tap"

The image, shot using a normal digital camera on a long exposure is a result of an experiment that Mr Nadlinger and his team are working on – the development of quantum computing using laser-manipulated trapped ions

Mr Nadlinger said "The idea of being able to see a single atom with the naked eye had struck me as a wonderfully direct and visceral bridge between the miniscule quantum world and our macroscopic reality

"When I set off to the lab with camera and tripods one quiet Sunday afternoon I was rewarded with this particular picture of a small, pale blue dot."

Oxford in the frame for share of £6m cycle cash

By Owen Hughes

OXFORD has been chosen as one of eight cities in the running to receive cash to make it a safer place for cyclists

The government has launched a £6 5million fund to pay for schemes including segregated cycle paths and improved junctions.

The funding is part of the Department for Transport (DfT) cycling review announced in September 2017

The seven other cities invited to bid for a share of the fund are Cambridge, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds Norwich, Manchester and Newcastle

Robin Tucker, chair of the Oxfordshire Cycling Network, said although the investment is "good news for Oxford" the announcement should be met with a certain degree of caution.

He said. "Oxford is one of the smaller of those cities so it will probably get a bit less than one eighth of the money maybe about half a million pounds I suppose..so we have to be reasonably cautious about what we expect for that

"I would expect the council to pick a junction and maybe one part of a priority route within the Oxford Transport Plan for improvements.

"Having cycle lanes is one thing but you've really got to make sure the cycling provision is continuous and safe across the junctions

"Getting the right details in the design at the junctions traffic lights and roundabouts is really important."

A further £500 000 will be set aside by the government to support Cycling UK's big bike revival initiative to encourage more people to cycle safely

Cycling minister Jesse Norman said. "Everyone should be able to take advantage of the huge health and environmental benefits of cycling

"While Britain has some of the safest roads in the world, we want to encourage more people to take up cycling.

"This funding, as part of our overall cycling and walking strategy will help local councils to make their roads safer for everyone."

Robin added that cycling groups have "built up a much better relationship" with councils in recent years and would help to work out the types of improvements that could benefit cyclists the most and make cycling safer for everyone

Councillors and campaigners at the launch of the Cycling City sigas last year as part of the vision to be a city that welcomes cyclists Pictura Oxford City Council

Student took drugs before Westgate fall

AN Oxford University student fell to his death from the Westgate Centre after taking drugs.

Max Mian, 19 pictured, was found dead on the morning of October 2 a day after the classics student had arrived in Oxford for his second year of studies.

His body was discovered a short distance from the John Lewis store by construction workers.

Last week at Oxford Coroners Court, Oxfordshire coroner Darren Salter delivered a verdict of accidental death.

The inquest heard how on the evening of October 1 Max and friends went out to The Swan and Castle pub in Castle Street, where he took ketamine.

After the pub, Mr Mian returned to his shared accommodation at Frewin Annex in St Michael's Street where he played on the PlayStation going to bed in the early hours of October 2

Mr Mian was spotted on CCTV leaving the flat at 3 25am.

It is believed he climbed the John Lewis building from the outside

His body was discovered by workers shortly before 7am.

The inquest heard how Mr Mian had scaled buildings in the past and had also expressed a desire to enter the construction site before.

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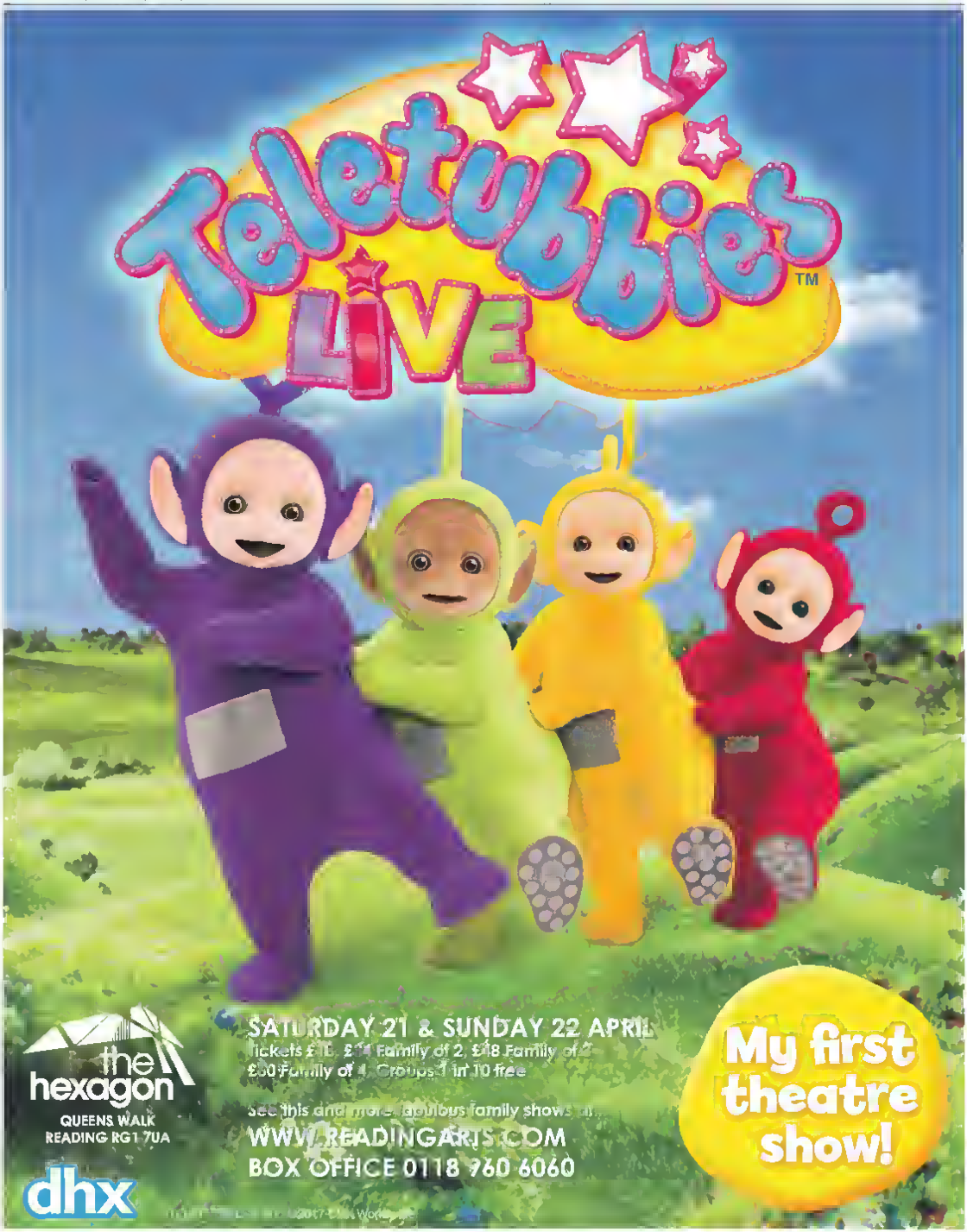
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Charity of the year 2018 – Helen & Douglas House

Full of beans at amount raised

By George Welch

TWO daring teachers from a Wheatley school took advantage of the re-sauces available to them to raise money for terminally ill children, young adults and their families

Pupils and fellow members of staff at Chilworth House Upper School enjoyed pouring beans over teaching assistant Michael Wood and deputy head and science teacher Gareth Smith while they laid in a bath to raise money for Helen & Douglas House, our charity of the year

The Thame Road school raised £257 with a jam-packed day of fundraising at the end of last term.

Mr Smith and Mr Wood willingly volunteered to sit in a bath tub and have baked beans poured over them. Students and staff members paid 20p a can to toss the beans over them.

Michael Wood and left, Gareth Smith took part in the beans in the bath challenge

Andrew Hemming, from the school, said the money was raised for Helen & Douglas House because the east Oxford charity "is such an incredible" organisation.

He added: "Our school loved fundraising for a great charity and hope the money gets used to make a little one's life more enjoyable.

"It was such an amazing achievement and a huge thanks to all the staff and students who took part and raised this much money for this great charity."

Staff and students bought and gobbled up cakes, flapjacks and brownies baked by the food technology department as part of the fundraising activities. A game to guess the amount of sweets in the jar, a raffle and a Santa fun run also added to the entertainment.

Lucy Walker, from Helen & Douglas House, said: "We are delighted that Chilworth House Upper School has raised this money for us. They organise some great fun fundraising events. This money will help local terminally ill children live life to the full and allow us to give their families the help and support they need."

■ Could your school organise a fundraising event to help local terminally ill children? If so, contact fundraising@helenanddouglas.org.uk

Visit tinyurl.com/ycgq3o9t to donate to Helen & Douglas House.

InBrief

Mental health help

PEOPLE with first-hand experience of mental health problems are invited to take part in a training programme and use their experiences to help others in their recovery.

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust is running a new peer support training programme – anyone who completes the programme can then apply for paid peer support worker roles, which will be advertised at Oxford Health in July.

Applications for the programme are due on March 1.

For more details, visit https://tinyurl.com/yddqk3m

Sibling advice

A CHILD and adolescent psychotherapist has published a children's picture book originally written to help his three-year-old son adjust to the arrival of his baby brother.

Dr Gerry Byrne, who works at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, has released All at Sea. There's a New Baby in the Family.

Visit tinyurl.com/ybt5d900

New road crossing

A NEW puffin crossing will be built on Banbury Road, just north of the junction with Hernes Road in Oxford.

Right turns from Hernes Road into Banbury Road will be prohibited but it is not yet known when the crossing will be built.

Rewarded for healthy eating efforts

RESTAURANTS and cafes in north Oxfordshire were recognised for going above and beyond in providing nutritious and healthy food for their customers.

Eat Out Eat Well organised by Cherwell District Council has presented its first set of winners with gold, silver and bronze awards at Bloxham Mill.

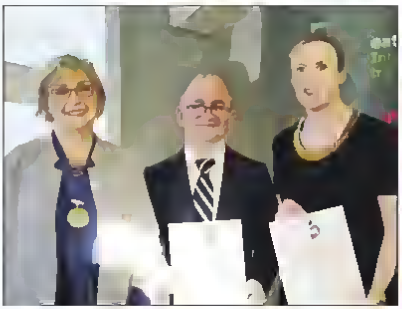
Prodrive and Reg's Café from Banbury, Copper Kitchen and Savoir Fare from Bicester, The Stables from Bodicote and Mulberry Cafe in Cropredy all scooped gold in the first round of awards.

Blue Apple Catering in Banbury received a silver award and The Black Bull in Launton received bronze.

Cllr Kieron Mallon, Cherwell's lead member for public protection, said: "We want to recognise the businesses that are doing their best to encourage a nutritious diet both in the quality of their cooking, and how they promote it to their customers."

Food caterers in the district can apply for an Eat Out Eat Well assessment to be considered for an award – the caterers are assessed on the food on offer, cooking methods and how healthy options are marketed to customers.

The winners have their names recorded in a national database which people can check before choosing where to go for a meal or takeaway.



Councillor Jolanta Lis presents gold awards to Reg and Alison Howe of Reg's Cafe and below, with Lorraine Pare of Savoir Fare

Focus on Footsteps Foundation

Life-changing physio to aid children's lives

Children's disability charity Footsteps Foundation was one of the many charities to be nominated for our charity of the year. Here, foundation manager Maggie Davies reveals all about the Dorchester-based charity and its upcoming projects

Mission

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for children effected by neurological disorders, enabling them to receive the intensive physiotherapy they need.

Since our beginnings in 2008 we have spent £1.4million on 25,000 hours of specialist, life-changing physiotherapy. We have helped 237 individual children, intensively over many years.

In our 10th year of operation, Footsteps Foundation is launching three new projects: The Equipment Fund, to help buy new equipment for our gyms, the Home from Home Fund, to help families who travel from further afield to pay for accommodation and The Music Therapy Project.

Therapy

Footsteps therapy is innovative and unique to the UK. It combines traditional methods of therapy with a specialist piece of equipment that originates from Poland.

The 'Spider' is a simple metal frame with elastics and harnesses that supports the child in a Spider's web, giving freedom of movement and allowing them to maintain positions they would not normally be able to achieve.

The Spider is central to Footsteps therapy and our therapists carry out a full range of exercises which improves muscle tone, coordination and core strength.

Therapists measure our results and children have achieved many advances in general mobility, standing, walking and fine and gross motor skills through Footsteps therapy often significantly exceeding medical expectations.

The need

The majority of children we support have cerebral palsy or are affected by other neurological disorders. Movements we take for granted, such as walking, standing, sitting and crawling can be exceptionally difficult.

Due to restraints on the NHS, disabled children typically only receive one or two hours of physiotherapy each month.

An important factor with Footsteps therapy is the intensity: 1-3 hours per day for three weeks, multiple times throughout the year.

Many of the children who need intensive physiotherapy the most come from families who are least able to afford it.

We believe there is a fundamental need to support these families and to help disabled children develop the skills necessary to reach their own unique personal potential.

Families thanks:

"Cerys had never taken an independent step before attending a session at footsteps; she was very weak in her legs and core, had poor balance and little confidence. In Cerys's first three week session at Footsteps she took her first independent steps, something we had been told she would never manage!

"Everyone in Abbie's life is amazed at the progress this time. There is always a marked improvement but the difference this has made to her life this time has been phenomenal. It is the difference between experiencing the world lying flat on her back and engaging with it sat up, able to see all around her and get where she wants to go."

Children such as Mattas on the treadmill, top left, and below, Sienna receiving treatment help from Gosia and Gia are just two of those who have been helped by Footstseps Foundation over the last 10 years – the charity is now launching a fundraising programme for three new projects

Visit tinyurl.com/y8d5xqy2 to donate to the Footsteps Foundation. For more information contact the charity at info@footstepscentre.com or 01865 340376

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College in the running for awards

A COLLEGE and its apprentices are celebrating after being recognised for several prestigious awards

Abingdon & Witney College has been nominated for awards at both a regional and national level, including the inaugural awards at this year's national FE Week annual apprenticeship conference (AAC)

The college is up for three AAC awards on March 5 – Outstanding contribution to the development of apprenticeships at a national level and Apprenticeship Provider of the Year at both regional and national level.

The college is also hoping to win the Training Provider of the Year category for the second year in a row

Three apprentices have also been recognised for their achievements at the 2018 Oxfordshire Apprenticeship Awards on Thursday next week.

Principal Di Batchelor said it was fantastic to have started 2018 in the same fashion as how it finished 2017

Lauren Livingstone, a care manager, and Trina White, a senior carer in elderly care and accommodation, are up for the Higher Apprenticeship Award.

Atlanta Hussey Powell, who is an apprentice healthcare assistant is up for the special recognition award.

Abingdon & Witney College celebrate their nominations

InBrief

Garage break-in

CHOLSEY residents are being asked to 'remain vigilant' after a garage was broken into in Iges Lane

Officers did not say whether anything was taken but did say the break-in happened between 5.30pm last Wednesday and 8.30am last Thursday

Contact police on 101 if you have any information on the incident or notice any suspicious people and/or vehicles in the area.

Schools' concert

YOUNG musicians from across the county gathered for a special concert at the historic Sheldonian Theatre.

Around 1 700 pupils from 34 schools performed a mix of traditional and contemporary classics at the Oxfordshire County Music Service Schools' Concert

Mayor's Proms night

ENJOY an Evening at the Proms courtesy of the Mayor and Mayoress of Bicester

The concert in aid of the soldiers of Oxfordshire the Royal British Legion and other local charities will be performed by the Waterloo Band and Bugles of the Rifles

It takes place at St Edburg's Church on Saturday from 7pm to 9pm. Adult tickets cost £15 the bar opens at 6 30pm For more information call 01869 252915 or email enquiries@bicestergov uk

Never a dull day in all his 25 years

By George Welch

FROM lumbering cumbersome equipment around to using state-of-the-art technology and having wider responsibility a lot has changed in the fire service over the last quarter of a century

Few know that more than Grahame Mitchell, pictured, who this year is celebrating his 25th year in the service

The assistant chief fire officer was recruited to Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service in 1992 after completing a five year engineering apprenticeship and deciding to follow a 'long-term' dream of becoming a firefighter– and there has not been a dull day since

"Not everyone can say that they have saved a life or that they still want to be in the same profession for this long," Grahame, whose first posting was to White Watch at Rewley Road in Oxford, said.

Over the past 25 years, Grahame has seen a 'huge societal change in that nearly all homes have working smoke alarms and car design and safety systems are improving.

The county council also believes that traffic accidents 'will be a thing of the past' as autonomous driving advances.

Pivotal to the service s evolution is the development of technology

Grahame said "When I started we used to have to use very heavy and cumbersome equipment and relied only on our senses to find our way through

smoke filled buildings

"Now we have lightweight breathing apparatus and thermal imaging technology so we can deal with fires even more efficiently"

The modern day fire service is "a lot more than responding to emergencies" and sometimes that takes its toll, Grahame said.

He added. "We have a real skill in responding to floods and in recent years we have seen adverse weather start to impact on our county and its residents, flooding is equally as distressing as experiencing a fire

"We assist and can get people to safety but to see their homes destroyed and all that devastation, it stays with you.

"With natural disasters it's always astonishing, the impact they can have, turning people s lives upside down."

If you are interested in becoming a firefighter go to tinyurl.com/y8fmafx7

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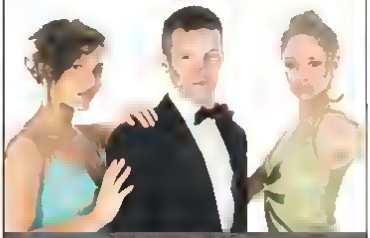
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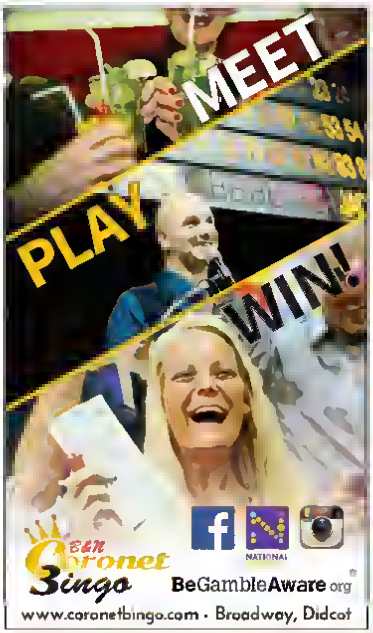

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News

Aspiring to help disadvantaged

By Owen Hughes

THERE are no signs of the wheels coming off an Oxford-based charity that helps disadvantaged people back into work after opening its workshop doors to a cycle repair centre.

Aspire Oxfordshire announced the deal to share its workshop facilities with social enterprise Broken Spoke Bike Co-op on Wednesday

Broken Spoke, in Pembroke Street, Oxford, helps people become more proficient in riding and bike maintenance and will begin sharing the workshop space from spring

Broken Spoke's director Sam said "Everyone is excited about the new workshop We're being asked about it by volunteers customers and folk from all over Oxford and Oxfordshire.

"We can't wait to join the community on Osney Lane and we're really looking forward to sharing resources to continue to transform and empower our communities Be ready to be amazed by the myriad different uses of an old inner tube."

The deal coincides with a recent grant from The Tambour Foundation to expand the charity's services to work with ex-military personnel in addition to the support it gives to offenders

Aspire's Through The Gate project currently offers work experience programmes for offenders like Terry, who approached the charity on release from HMP Bullingdon.

Terry received training and housing advice from Aspire and last week was awarded a permanent contract for his job at University College, Oxford.

Caroline Winn joined Aspire in December after the project was expanded to support ex-military clients.

She said, "At Aspire we recognise that it is very challenging for military families who have transitioned from military life to civilian life to know where to go for help locally

"I'll be working closely with welfare staff on the military bases military charities and other local community organisations to break down barriers and allow ex-military clients to thrive in the local community"

For more information go to www aspireoxford.co uk/support-us

Broken Spoke Bike Co-op staff celebrate their partnership with Aspire Oxfordshire

InBrief

New restaurant

A NEW bar and restaurant is set to open in Abingdon next month, creating 25 jobs

The new 'cosy retreat' called Pable Lounge will launch on Bury Street on March 7 following a £435 000 investment in the site.

The family friendly venue will serve food and drink, with a full menu just for children as well as games, books, colouring pencils and pads. There will also be a community notice board and a book swap area

The team will also hold regular fundraising events, and have chosen to support local charity Abingdon Community Hospital League of Friends

Quiz the police

REPRESENTATIVES from Thames Valley Police will be attending Thame Town Council's next full council meeting on Tuesday to update on policing in the town

Councillors and members of the public will be able to ask questions

Office rents up

OXFORD'S 'knowledge economy' is driving rental growth according to research by Bidwells property consultants which reveals office space take-up in the county was the highest for a decade

It said the cost of prime office rents in the county hit a new high.

Mini car, walking and beer attractions scoop visitor awards

OXFORDSHIRE is clearly the place to be after a trio of attractions scooped accolades for quality visitor experiences.

Cowley's MINI Plant Oxford Official Walking Tours and Witney's Wychwood Brewery Tours were recognised last week by tourist board VisitEngland for outstanding experiences they provide

Eighty-six attractions across the country received accolades after being judged on criteria from story telling to food and drink and customer service. VisitEngland inspectors assess the tourist sites annually

The MINI plant and Oxford Official Walking Tours were honoured in the Best Told Story category while Wychwood Brewery Tours was acknowledged in both the Hidden Gem and Welcome categories.

Martin Walker head of marketing and development at Experience Oxfordshire the visitor information service that runs the walking tours, said the team behind them is "delighted" to be recognised.

He added. "It's a great achievement and reflects the professionalism and dedication of our walking tour guides who share their knowledge and passion for the city's history and heritage with thousands of visitors every year"

VisitEngland director Andrew Stokes said "These attractions offer a warm welcome unique story telling, high quality food and drink and unparalleled customer service and rightly deserve these accolades."

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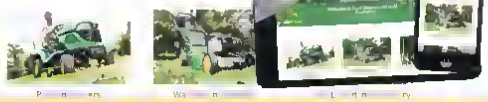

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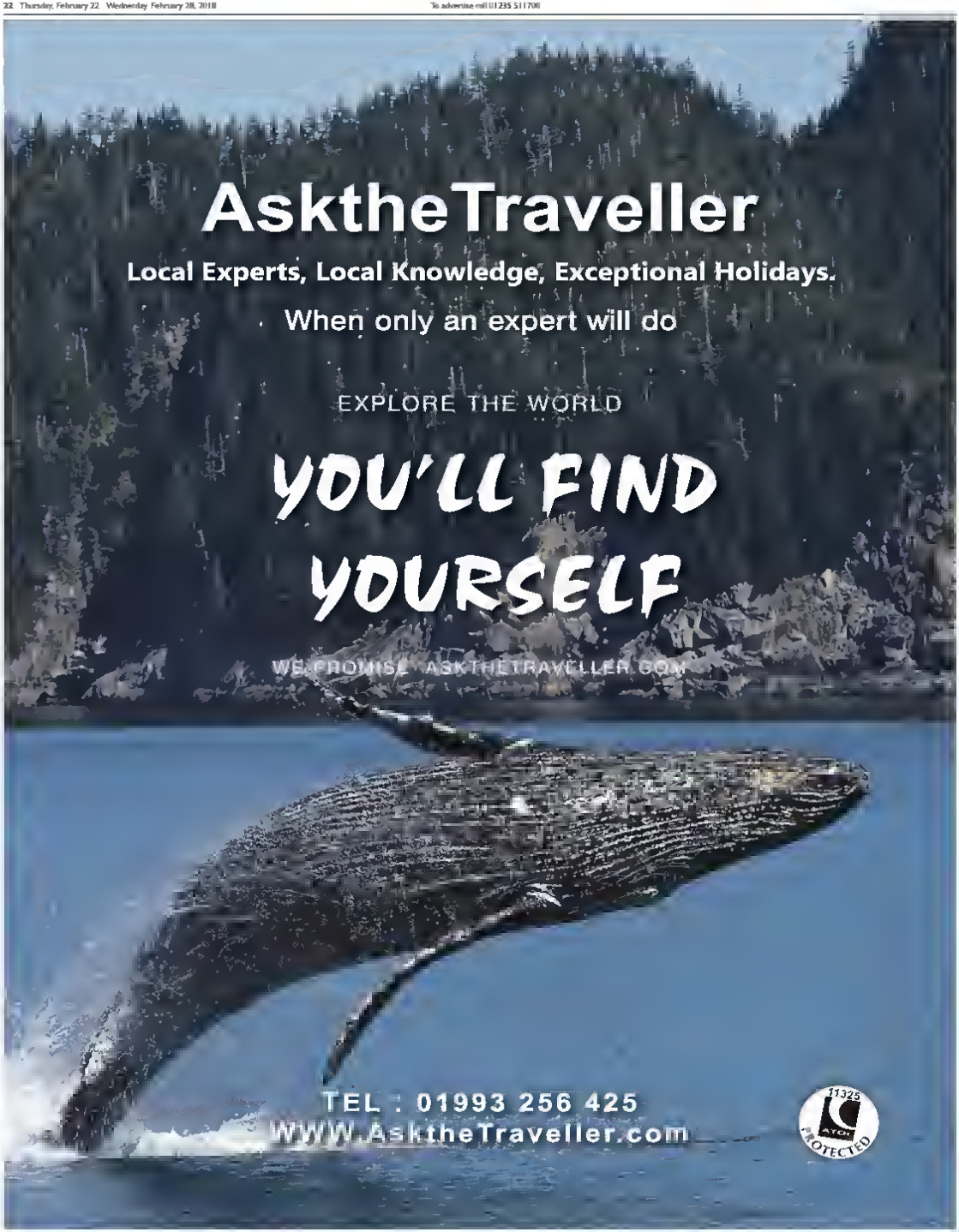

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Out & About

Noel Gallagher completes line-up at Blenheim Palace concerts

Dance festival hot foots it to city

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Out Abo

Time to put on your dancin' shoes

Spring dance festival comes to city

By Samantha McGregor

OXFORD S annual spring dance festival is gearing up ta lake the city by storm next month

Organisers of The 2018 Dancin Oxford festival boast this year is "probably the best yet" with more professional companies taster sessions and "extraordinary aerial performances on the new Westgate Shopping Centre façade

Now in its 12th year the event is funded by Oxford City Council and Arts Council England and runs across the county from March 2 to 11

Claire Thompsnn, Oxford City Council s dance officer said "Each festival has its strengths and this spring one is no different.

"I am delighted that we have now engaged with venues all over the county with a wide variety of performances that should suit all tastes

"For our annual free event in Oxford city centre we are upending the dance floor for a series of aerial performances danced to a driving musical score What a treat."

Among the performers is Gravity & Levity an aerial dance company, who will upend the dance floor to view the city from a whole new perspective when dancers scale the Westgate Shopping Centre façade lo dance up down and across to a lively musical score on March 10

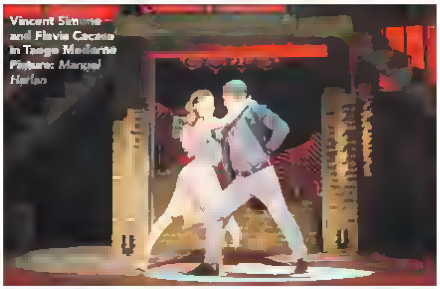
The annual Moving with the Times comprises of three specially commissioned pieces by Dancin Oxford and Pegasus and features Oxford performers Joelle Pappas Lunas Dance and Orley & Sermet The themes range from an exploration of altitudes and behaviours to motherhood

The other two big shows this year are Gecko s The Wedding al the Oxford Playhouse from March 1 to 3 and Tango Moderno starring Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace which is staged at the New Theatre from March 5 to 8

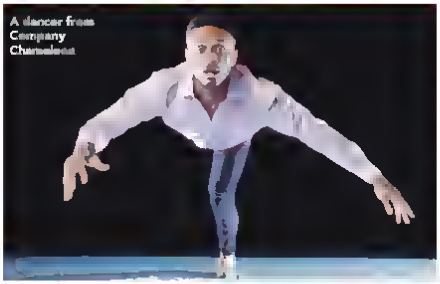
The North Wall plays host to four dance performances including the return of the popular children s dance company Peut-Etre Theatre with a new show Tidy Up, an March 10

Outside the city The Mill in Banbury will host J&D Acrobats Knol on March 9 and Cornerstone Didcot showcases New Art Club's Cupid's Revenge on March 10

For more information or to book go to dancinoxford.co uk



Vincent Simone and Flavia Cacace in Tango Moderno Picture: Manuel Harlan



A dancer from Company Chameleon

Front image: *Dancer Lindsey Butcher courtesy of Scarabeus © Mark Morreau*

On stage

Art at Town Hall

Oxford International Art Fair brings together contemporary art from leading artists from the UK and overseas under the majestic roof of Oxford Town Hall

Among the highlights will be work by Jenny Bowden an Oxfordshire based watercolour abstract artist

It takes place from tomorrow until Sunday For more information view oxfordinternationalartfair.com

Ezra's Truck debut

Friendly Fires and Georga Ezra are among the acts lined up for Oxfordshire's Truck Festival.

The Hill Farm festival takes place from July 20 to 22, and includes performances from hip-hop legends De La Soul and indie favourites Circa Waves. Gaz Coombes is back for the first time since 2013 and Oxford Symphony Orchestra who became a viral sensation after their 2017 set, also return

Tickets available at truckfestival.com

Explorer on tour

Tickets have gone on sale for explorer Benedict Allen who will stop off at Oxford s Sheldonian Theatre in October as part of a UK tour revealing the unvarnished truth of his most recent adventure – a solo expedition to Papua New Guinea

For more information view benedictallen.com/tour2018

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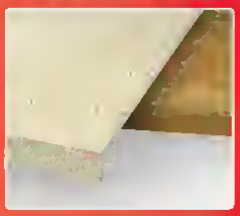

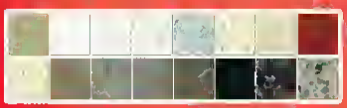

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Noel flies in with his birds

THE final headline act for Oxfordshire music festival Nocturne has been announced as Noel Gallagher

Multi million-selling Oasis star Gallagher will perform on Friday June 15 at the Blenheim Palace concert series

It comes after a string of international stars have already been announced including Gary Barlow who is due to headline the event's closing show Elvis Costello Nile Rodgers & Chic, The Waterboys and Nick Lowe

Nocturne returns to Blenheim's 10,000-capacity Great Court for a four-day musical extravaganza from June 14 to 17

As guitarist and principal songwriter of legendary rock band Oasis, Noel had eight UK number one singles, eight UK number one albums and won six Brit Awards

His solo performances feature a mix of solo material alongside a selection of Oasis hits

Noel will perform and his High Flying Birds touring band, which consists of former Oasis guitarist Gem Archer, former Oasis session pianist Mike Rowe, former Oasis drummer Chris Sharrock and The Zutons bassist Russell Pritchard

Tickets for this concert start at £45 and are on sale now to book view nocturnelive.com

Carrying a third pint glass – the true mark of a genius

STAND-up veteran Simon Evans, known for his thought-provoking performances, is bringing his wit and wisdom to Chipping Norton Theatre.

He will appear on Saturday March 3, as part of his Genius tour, coming from his success at the Edinburgh Festival.

This performance will see him explore what is genius? Is it a high IQ? A ruthless disregard for convention? Any ploy used successfully to carry a third pint glass without spilling it? Or something else?

Well whatever it is, it seems to be in desperately short supply in public life at present, according to Simon.

Evans is a familiar face with appearances on Live at the Apollo, Michael McIntyre's Roadshow and the Edinburgh Gala amongst others.

Demonstrating his genius in more conventional form he appeared on University Challenge: The Professionals in 2007, in a team narrowly beaten by eventual series winners the Ministry of Justice. He was also a contestant on Celebrity Mastermind where his specialist subject was Ernest Shackleton.

Simon is a regular on Radio 4 with four series of his own show Simon Evans Goes to Market already broadcast, the fifth currently transmitting and more in the pipeline.

He also writes for various other TV shows and comedians and recently The Daily Telegraph giving his views on Brexit as a subject for comedy.

For more information or tickets view chippingnortontheatre.com

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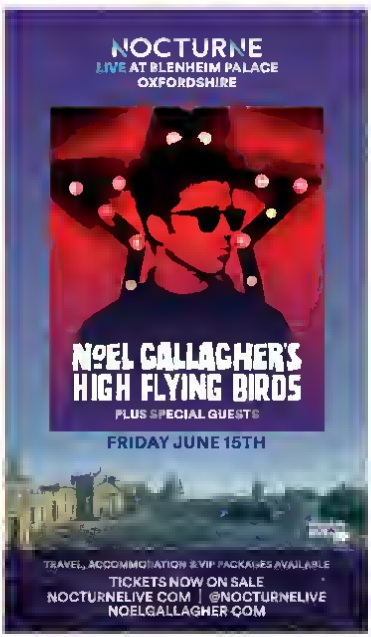

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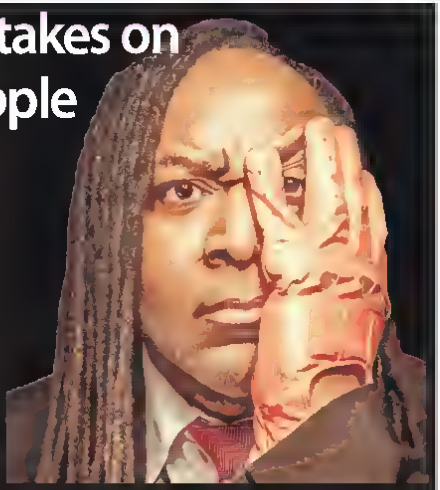
Reginald takes on some people



COMEDIAN Reginald D Hunter, who is known for his honest and often controversial approach, is coming to the Oxford Playhouse.

He brings his latest show 'Some people Vs Reginald D Hunter' to Oxford on March 6 as part of a nationwide tour.

Originally from America, Reginald now lives and performs in the UK.

He came to England to study acting at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, but after completing a comedy set as a dare he found his vocation.

Having been in the UK for nearly two decades he has become one of comedy's best-known performers for his distinctive take on subjects including race and sexuality.

His work is described as "brutally honest" and is often considered to be controversial, unafraid to face challenging issues head on, even when the focus is on his own principles or beliefs.

Reginald is a well-known face on primetime television shows such as 8 Out Of 10 Cats, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and QI and is a frequent guest on Have I Got News For You.

He also made the popular three-part BBC2 series Reginald D Hunter's Songs Of The South.

The support act for the evening Pete Johansson, whose hit solo Edinburgh show Naked Pictures of My Life garnered rave reviews and bagged him a nomination for Best Newcomer at the Edinburgh Comedy Awards.

Pete has appeared on many shows including The Late Late Show, Russell Howard's Good News on BBC3, Comedy Central's Live at the Comedy Store and Best of the Fest on Channel 4, as well as having his own Netflix special.

Tickets for Reginald D Hunter at Oxford Playhouse are £25 and are available from the box office on 01865 305305 or go to oxfordplayhouse.com

Earl Grey & Gin Cured Salmon

Gin is all the rage and not just as a drink so why not try it with salmon and Earl Grey for a sumptuously smokey flavour as in this recipe from Roger Williams head chef of The Maytime Inn at Asthall near Burford

Ingredients:

For the cured salmon

3 teaspoons loose leaf Earl Grey divided
1/2 cup caster sugar
1/2 cup coarse sea salt
Black pepper for sprinkling
1 side salmon
1 fluid ounce gin
Juice from 1/2 orange

For the citrus cream

5 ounces creme fraiche
Juice from 1/2 orange
1 teaspoon wholegrain mustard
A few sprigs of dill finely chopped
Sea salt to taste
Freshly ground black pepper to taste

1 loaf of rye bread

Method:

Boil the kettle and pour the water over half the loose leaf tea – just enough to moisten the leaves.

Mix the sugar, salt, pepper and remaining tea together in a bowl and sprinkle a thin layer into the bottom of the baking dish.

Cut the salmon into 2 large pieces. If you don't have a baking dish big enough, you can cut the salmon into manageable fillets. Lay one side of salmon in the dish, skin side down and sprinkle the cure all over. Then lay the other side skin side up, on top of the salmon and sprinkle the remaining cure all over.

Pour the orange juice, gin and tea over the salmon.

Add a layer of plastic wrap over the dish and place the chopping board or dish on top of the fish. Add the cans and refrigerate. Every day turn the salmon fillets over and baste with any liquid in the tray.

The salmon will be ready after 48 hours, although could be left up to 72 hours for a slightly stronger cure.

Make the cream 1 hour or so before serving. In a mixing bowl add the creme fraiche, orange juice, mustard, and dill. Mix until flavours are combined and season to taste.

When ready to serve, remove the salmon from the cure, rinse gently under cold water, scrape off any tea leaves and pat dry. Slice salmon as thin as possible and serve.

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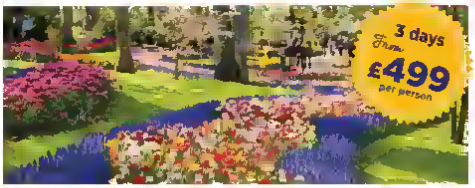

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ABTA

FENCING FEATURE ADVERTISEMENT

Get ready for Winter

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system

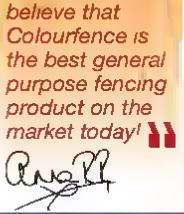
It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity mock out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quite a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from - constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality value, longevity, aesthetic design - this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view Colourfence is the Rolls Royce of fencing - just without the exclusive price tag. What's more - it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"



Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up.

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply wants to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - see website for details

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Head into Winter - with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientifically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be efficiently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171

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In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free
- Save time & money - no treating required.
- Guaranteed† not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
- Variety of colours and sizes available
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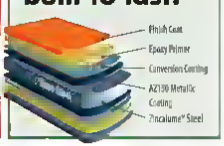
Colourfence is built to last!



NO PRESSURE PROMISE

To reassure customers that our free no-obligation site survey and quotation is not a precursor to high pressure sales techniques, all Colourfence Franchisees have signed up to the Colourfence No Pressure Promise. Call or visit our website for details.

COLOUR FENCE

Competition

WIN tickets to the Photography Show

Closing date Thursday, March 1, 2018

The Photography Show, the event for everyone passionate about photography and moving image returns to the NEC Birmingham from 17-20 March 2018 featuring the latest kit from big brands and a jam-packed speaker line-up.

Get hands-on with new products from Canon, Epson, Fujifilm, Hasselblad, Manfrotto, Nikon, Olympus, Panasonic, Sigma and Sony to name a few, plus tripods, albums and accessories you didn't even know existed from over 220 exhibitors.

The Great Outdoors, a new stage for 2018, will feature live demos and expert advice on image capture outside including dramatic landscapes, getting close to nature and special occasions whatever the weather. The enhanced Mobile & Social Stage will offer the opportunity to explore mobile imaging technologies and how social media can make (or break) a photographer, and the dedicated Video Stage will showcase cutting-edge products alongside technical and creative help on how to get the best out of moving image production skills.

Plus, catch exciting live action tutorials on the Live Stage, find out about intriguing photography projects and techniques in Behind the Lens, discover how drones can enhance your projects in the Drone Zone and hear thrilling insights into the journeys of world-renowned photographers at the Super Stage and more!

For more information, please visit: www.photographyshow.com/pr_1

Get your ticket

To guarantee that you'll be at the show in March, you can buy tickets to the show by visiting www.photographyshow.com/pr_1. Tickets to Super Stage sessions, masterclasses and for the VIP package are limited so book early to avoid disappointment.

Win tickets!

The Basingstoke Observer has teamed up with The Photography Show to offer 5 lucky readers and their plus one, the chance to attend 2018's most exciting photography event, absolutely free!*

To be in with a chance of winning just answer the following simple question.

Q: Where will you be able to find out more about how drones can be used?

To enter this competition and more like it, go online to
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The Photography Show
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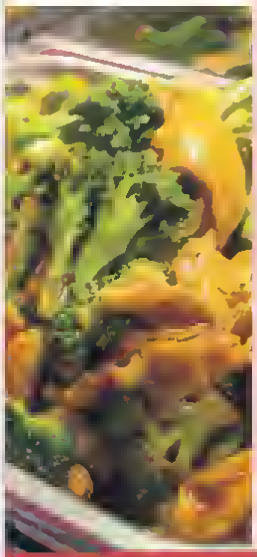
Tickets are limited to one pair per winner and are valid for one day only. So what are you waiting for? Send your entry today!

*Free tickets are for entry to the show plus a selection of theatre and stage programmes. Additional tickets must be purchased for the Masterclasses, Super Stage sessions and VIP upgrades.

Oxy Oriental



Treat your Mum this Mothers Day on Sunday 11th March at Oxy Oriental

STARTERS

Start your lunch meal at Oxy Oriental with one of our fantastic starters. Choose from over 50 amazing starters from our buffet.

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Soups
Spare Ribs in Barbecue Sauce
Onion Rings
Vegetable Spring Rolls
Lemon Chicken
Deep Fried Chicken Wing
Vegetable Curry Samosa
Chips

MAIN COURSES

Continue your lunchtime voyage to Asia and get your taste buds tingling with some of our round the world dishes. Guaranteed to satisfy your hunger..

Pork Chops with Sweet Chilli Sauce
Sweet and Sour Chicken
Beef with Black Bean Sauce
Malaysian Chicken Curry
Vegetable Foo Yung
Stir Fried Egg Plants & Green Beans
Mushroom with Oyster Sance
Mix Vegetable & Bean Curd with Yellow Bean Sance
Deep Fried Aubergines
Fried Rice
Boil Rice
Chips
Noodles in Special Soy Sance
Singapore Vermicelli

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puzzle drome

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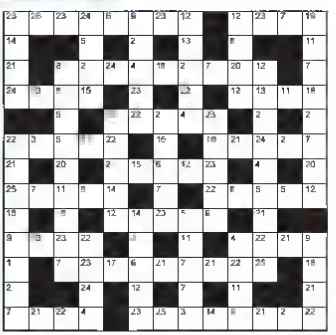
CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

Each number in our Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You know three letters in the central grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and centre grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

MAGIC SQUARE

NOW LOSS IS SO MINOR

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.

Quiz Challenge

1. **What is the name of the archipelago 50 miles west of the Hebrides, of which Hirta is the largest island?**
2. **Sandown Park horse racing course is in which town in Surrey?**
3. **"Tonight I'm gonna have myself a real good time" is the opening line of which Queen song?**
4. **According to the proverb, what is the better part of valour?**
5. **Whose 1963 report on British Railways led to the cutting of the railway network by over a quarter?**
6. **At 1,083ft, Cleeve Hill is the highest point in which English county?**
7. **John and Charles Wesley are associated with the founding of which Christian movement?**
8. **Together with her siblings Dappy and Fazer former X-Factor judge Tulisa Contostavlos made up which British hip hop group?**
9. **A breed of which animal is named after the New Forest?**
10. **A skid row florist's assistant finds fame nurturing a man-eating plant in which musical?**

NONAGRAM

R	U	G
T	Y	E
S	O	N

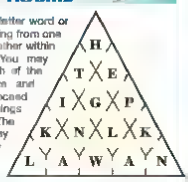
How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

Guidelines:
25 Good 30 Very Good; 35 Excellent.

Any word found in the Chambers Collins Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns; possessive and palaeonymic; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where neither variant is also eligible).

WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber

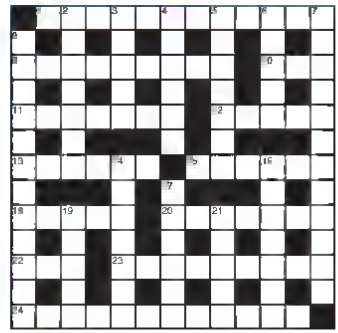


FIVE ALIVE

RK	HA	AV	KE	DI
IE		IS		ED
AN	OF	TI	ES	RE
RG		DA		AB
SM	IT	LE	PK	YS

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid – but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Youngster mad on puzzles? Wrist can be done with him? (7,5)
9. Arrive, having washed, and admit everything (4,5)
10. Their expressions include anger (3)
11 It might be the first service book (7)
12. Does some passing (5)
13 One who badly wants more time? (6)
15 May possibly include work by one suffering from short-sightedness (6)
18. Deck or stock (5)
20. One is ages repairing the spear (7)
22. Twitch the odd letters (3)
23. In French get an after trip with the attendants (3)
24 Make a keen deal (12)

DOWN

2. Hurried to take first man up inside fast (7)
3. Essayist or artist – comparatively rash? (5)
4. Equally it could have been Evelyn (6)
5 Runs for 100 years (7)
6. Sweet crashing that is a danger to aeroplanes (5)
7 One who mainly works well below the surface (4-3,5)
8. Medical man who tampers with a place of learning? (6,6)
14 Not stopping to put into words (7)
16 Attendant has a book on the spectacle (7)
17 First Michaelmas daisy for teacher (6)
19. Drinks may be, or shoes (5)
21 Fireworks will not go off when damp (5)

SUDOKU

Easy — Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9 ...and so must each 3 x 3 box. — Hard

1		9	2	7				
5			4				7	9
	3	2			8		4	
4	9	8		3				
6	5			4		8		3
3				8	6	5		
		4			9		6	
	6	5			4	3	1	

			4		5			6
9			1		3	2		
	5	3				8		
				1		7		
			5	7		4		
			4					3
	7			9	2	4		
			6		9			

EQUALISER

Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same.

Perform the first calculation in each first first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

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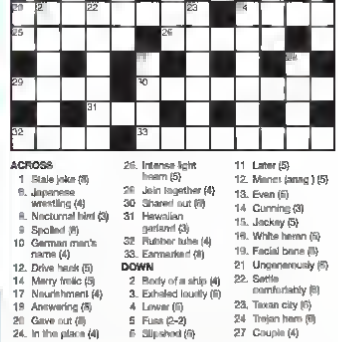
QUICK CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Stale jokes (8)
6. Japanese wrestling (4)
8. Nocturnal hint (5)
9 Spoiled (6)
10 German man's name (4)
12. Drive hard (5)
14 Merry frolic (5)
17 Nourishment (4)
18 Answering (6)
20 Gave out (6)
24. In the place (4)
25 Regenerate (5)
26. Intense light beam (5)
28 Join together (4)
30 Shared out (6)
31 Hawaiian garland (3)
32 Rubber tube (4)
33. Earmarked (8)

DOWN

2 Body of a ship (4)
3. Exhibited lavishly (6)
4 Lewer (6)
5 Fuss (2-2)
6 Slipshod (6)
7 Type of glove (6)
11 Later (5)
12. Manet (anag.) (5)
13. Even (6)
14 Cunning (8)
15. Jackey (5)
16. White heron (5)
19. Facial bone (6)
21 Ungenerously (6)
22. Settle comfortably (6)
23. Taxan city (6)
24 Trojan hero (6)
27 Couple (4)
28. Ewasar (4)

SOLUTIONS

QUIZ CHALLENGE: 1 St Kilda. 2 Epsom. 3 Don't Stop Me Now. 4 Discretion. 5 Beeching. 6 Gloucestershire. 7 The Methodist Church. 8 N-Dubz. 9 Pony. 10 Little Shop of Horrors.

CROSS CODE

T	A	Y	K	L	U	B	T	O	S	H				
P	M	Z	Q	W	F	D	I	N	E	C	G	X		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

EASY SUDOKU

1	4	9	2	7	3	5	6	8
5	8	6	4	1	3	7	9	2
7	1	4	6	8	5	2	3	9
2	3	5	7	9	1	4	8	6
8	9	7	3	5	2	6	1	4
6	5	1	8	4	9	3	2	7
3	7	8	5	6	4	9	2	1
4	6	2	9	3	7	8	5	1
9	2	5	1	3	8	1	4	6

HARD SUDOKU

1	7	3	9	2	4	5	8	6
9	6	8	1	5	3	2	4	7
4	5	2	7	6	8	3	9	1
6	3	9	2	4	5	8	1	7
8	2	1	3	7	6	4	5	9
7	4	5	8	9	1	6	7	3
5	8	7	6	1	9	7	3	4
3	1	6	4	8	7	9	2	5
2	9	4	5	3	2	1	6	8

EQUALISER: 7 + 4 = 11; 4 × 3 = 12; 11 − 2 = 9; 12 − 3 = 9

MAGIC SQUARE

S	O	W	N
I	S	N	O
M	O	S	T
L	O	S	S

WORD PYRAMID: Wearing the jewels; Clockwise from noon; Bet – said – survived; Tenuity; Tackle it.

EQUALISER: 7 + 4 = 11; 4 × 3 = 12; 11 − 2 = 9; 12 − 3 = 9

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across — 1 Stale jokes (8); 6 Japanese wrestling (4); 8 Nocturnal hint (5); 9 Spoiled (6); 10 German man's name (4); 12 Drive hard (5); 14 Merry frolic (5); 17 Nourishment (4); 18 Answering (6); 20 Gave out (6); 24 In the place (4); 25 Regenerate (5); 26 Intense light beam (5); 28 Join together (4); 30 Shared out (6); 31 Hawaiian garland (3); 32 Rubber tube (4); 33 Earmarked (8).

Down — 2 Body of a ship (4); 3 Exhibited lavishly (6); 4 Lewer (6); 5 Fuss (2-2); 6 Slipshod (6); 7 Type of glove (6); 11 Later (5); 12 Manet (anag.) (5); 13 Even (6); 14 Cunning (8); 15 Jackey (5); 16 White heron (5); 19 Facial bone (6); 21 Ungenerously (6); 22 Settle comfortably (6); 23 Taxan city (6); 24 Trojan hero (6); 27 Couple (4); 28 Ewasar (4).

MAGIC SQUARE

S	O	W	N
I	S	N	O
M	O	S	T
L	O	S	S

Down — Swiss, Oslo, Wins, Snot.
Across — Swim, Sins, Slow, Tons.

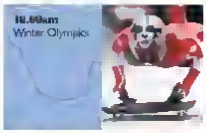
FIVE ALIVE:
(1) Across — Fennel, Alter, Derby, Down — Tiberr, Vine, Derby, Alder, Down — Knight, Aster, Beta.
(2) Across — Knight, Aster, Beta, Down — Fennel, Alter, Derby, Tiberr, Vine, Derby.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:
Across — 1 Freedom Child, 9 Come clean, 10 Err, 11 Debrief, 12 Lapse, 13 Lawyer, 15 Myopic, 18 Deck, 20 Assegai, 22 Tic, 23 Emergency, 24 Rockefeller Down — 2 Fraudulent, 3 Recent, 4 Envoy, 5 Century, 6 Rugby, 7 Deep-sea diver, 8 Sidcup Central, 14 Epigram, 16 Pigment, 17 Master, 19 Lucre, 21 Skate.

QUICK CROSSWORD:
Across — 1 Cheddar, 5 Rumba, 8 One, 9 Bathers, 10 Dire, 11 Hyena, 12 Hawk, 14 Spree, 17 Food, 19 Hungary, 20 Remorse, 24 Here, 25 Tramp, 26 Lever, 28 Ikon, 30 Admire, 31 Lie, 32 Pyre, 33 Sharp.
Down — 1 Chemist, 2 Eunice, 3 One, 4 Bathers, 5 Ride, 6 Mayor, 7 Ashes, 11 Hydra, 13 Wonder, 15 Eagle, 16 Sir, 18 Hungry, 21 Mire, 22 Ikon, 23 Pyre, 27 Rear, 28 Pale.

Saturday February 24th

BBC 1



TOP TV

18.00am Winter Olympics

MORNING

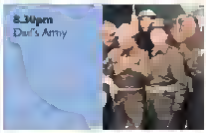
AFTERNOON

12.00pm Football Focus
1.00pm BBC News
1.15pm Winter Olympics
4.00pm Six Nations Rugby Union

EVENING

7.00pm BBC News
7.10pm Regional News and Weather
7.15pm All Together Now
8.20pm Casualty
9.10pm Tiny: Fall of a City
10.10pm BBC News
10.30pm Match of the Day
11.55pm Winter Olympics
3.30am Winter Olympics
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2



8.30pm Dad's Army

10.00am Saturday Kitchen Live
11.30am The Hairy Bikers' Comfort Food

12.00pm Winter Olympics
1.15pm Escape to the Country
2.00pm Italy's Invisible Cities
3.00pm Nigel Slater's Middle East: Iran
4.00pm Trust Me, I'm a Doctor
4.30pm Final Score
5.30pm Tom Kerridge's Lose Weight for Good

6.00pm Hugh's Wild West
7.00pm Winter Olympics
8.00pm David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities
8.30pm Dad's Army
9.00pm Judi Dench: All the World's a Her Stage
10.00pm Philomena
11.30pm Strawberry Fields
12.55am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.00am BBC News
6.00am Winter Olympics

ITV

5.00pm The Chase

8.30am Be Cool Scooby-Doo
9.05am Wishfart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Saturday Morning with James Martin
11.25am Dancing on Ice

1.20pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.30pm Six Nations Live
4.30pm ITV Evening News
4.00pm ITV News London
5.00pm The Chase

6.00pm Take Me Out
7.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
8.30pm The Voice UK
9.50pm Through the Keyhole
10.45pm ITV News
11.05pm Lethal Weapon 4
1.30am Jackpot247
3.00am Babushka
3.30am ITV Nightscreen
6.00am Sneity
6.10am The Aquabatix! Super Show!
6.25am Dino Dans
6.50am Super 4

Channel 4

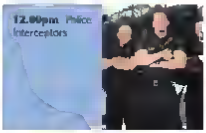
1.00pm The Simpsons

7.10am King of Queens
8.00am Everybody Loves Raymond
9.00am Frasier
10.30am The Big Bang Theory

12.00pm The Simpsons
12.30pm The Simpsons
1.00pm The Simpsons
1.25pm Come Dine with Me
2.25pm Coast v Country
3.25pm A Place in the Sun
4.30pm The Secret Life of the Zoo
5.35pm The Supervet

6.30pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Penelope Keith's Coastal Villages
8.00pm Britain at Low Tide
9.00pm The Take
10.50pm Dredd
12.35am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA
1.25am The Last Leg
2.20am Hollyoaks Omnibus
4.25am Coast v Country
5.20am Location, Location, Location
6.15am King of Queens
6.40am King of Queens

Channel 5



12.00pm Police Interceptors

9.25am Digby Dragon
9.50am Peppa Pig
10.00am Peppa Pig
10.05am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.35am Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud
11.00am Police Interceptors

12.00pm Police Interceptors
1.00pm Police Interceptors
2.00pm Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!
5.00pm Rich House, Poor House

6.00pm The Secret Life of Puppies
7.00pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
8.00pm Britannia: Secrets of the Royal Yacht
8.25pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Football on 5
10.30pm Britain's Favourite Biscuit
11.55pm Cruising with Jane McDonald
12.10am Super Casino
3.10am GPs: Behind Closed Doors
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Divine Designs
5.25am Wildlife SOS
6.00am Little Princess

Oxford **Philharmonic** Orchestra

op

Saturday 3 March 2018, Oxford Town Hall, 7.30pm

Oxfordshire Concerto Competition Final

WALTON
Violin Concerto
Leo Appel
violin

BRUCH
Violin Concerto No 1
Victoria Gill
violin

SCRIABIN
Piano Concerto
Joshua Asokan
piano

Oxford Philharmonic Orchestra
John Traill conductor

In partnership with the Oxfordshire County Music Service

OMEP Oxfordshire Music Education Partnership

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Intergalactic Adventure

Alasdair Malloy presenter

Craft activities at 2pm

Most suitable for ages 4-8

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BARNES HOLIDAYS

Easter Mystery Tours
30/03/18
4 Day tours
Cooch 1: 4 Star Hotel £299
Coach 2: Seaside Hotel £269

These are always popular and allow you to get away over Easter weekends For Easter we have the choice of 2 Mysteries! A 4 star hotel with great leisure facilities plus a 3 course Sunday Lunch, or a seaside hotel! There will also be interesting towns visited on the way to and back from the destination and there will be an included excursion from the hotel on the middle day(s)

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WWW.BARNESCOACHES.CO.UK
UNIT E, WOODSIDE ROAD, SOUTH MARSTON PARK, SWINDON, SN3 4AQ

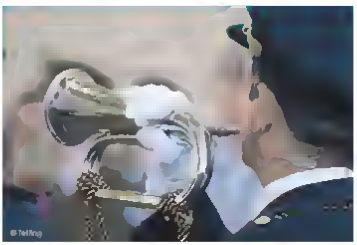
Eastbourne, Sussex Coast & Countryside
06/04/18
5 Days £329

Eastbourne is one of England's premier seaside resorts It has a magnificent Victorian seafront and there are beautiful parks and gardens to enjoy This year we will be staying at the delightful New Wilmington Hotel which is a fine family run hotel just off the seafront. On this tour we have also included trips to Rye, Tenterden, Brighton & much more!

The Outer Hebrides
19/05/18
8 Days £769

Includes Isles of Lewis Harris, Benbecula, North and Sauth Uist plus Skye.

A journey of discovery visiting no less than 6 of Scotland's Western Isles! Some are linked by causeway and there are ferry rides between others amidst stunning and ever-changing scenery This is a circular tour travelling up and back by different routes so you see the best of the Scottish mainland as well. We will be staying at multiple hotels on this tour including King Robert Hotel based in Stirling, Cabarfeidh Hotel based in Stornoway and the Dark Island Hotel in Benbecula.



Ypres, Passchendaele & Memories of WWI
13/04/18
4 Days £489

This tour takes in the main battlefront where more than 250,000 British & Commonwealth soldiers lost their lives Our base in Ypres allows us to attend the service in which each night, at 8pm, the Last Post is played to commemorate the 55,000 men who were never found This tour includes visits to Essex Farm, Poperinge, Talbot House Thiepval Memorial - the largest British War Memorial in the world and much more. Our hotel for this tour will be 4 star Hotel Ariane, Ypres which is set in quiet surroundings with only a short walk from the town centre

Mill Rythe Holiday Village
07/05/18
5 Days £309

Includes Hayling Island and includes Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth.

Great British holidays start at Away Resorts, and we stay at this one on Hayling Island which highlights everything that is great about the UK. At night Mill Rythe really comes alive with an incredible Entertainments Team that stage the most amazing shows.

Sunday February 25th

TOP TV

BBC 1

MORNING

7.30am Match of the Day
9.00am The Andrew Marr Show
10.00am The Big Questions
11.00am Sunday Politics

AFTERNOON

12.15pm Bargain Hunt
1.05pm BBC News
1.15pm Wanted Down Under Revisited
2.05pm Money for Nothing
2.45pm Get Away for Winter
3.35pm Songs of Praise
4.05pm Earth's Natural Wonders

EVENING

6.05pm BBC News
6.20pm Regional News and Weather
6.30pm Countryfile
7.30pm Mole the Sunset
8.00pm Call the Midwife
9.00pm Strike - Career of Evil
10.00pm BBC News
10.20pm Regional News and Weather
10.30pm Match of the Day 2
11.15pm Point Break
1.10am Weather for the Week Ahead
1.15am BBC News
6.00am Breakfast

BBC 2

11.00am Winter Olympics

2.00pm Athletics
5.30pm Flog It!

6.00pm Back in Time for Tea
7.00pm Winter Olympics
8.00pm Top Gear
9.00pm Life and Death Row
10.15pm The Mash Report
10.45pm Top Gear: Extra Gear
11.10pm Cleverman
12.00am Women's Six Nations Highlights
12.30am Question Time
1.30am Holby City
2.00am This is BBC Two
6.00am Coast
6.00am Get Away for Winter

ITV

9.05am Wishart
9.25am ITV News
9.30am Love Your Garden
10.00am Peston on Sunday
11.00am The Martin Lewis Money Show
11.30am The Voice UK

12.45pm ITV Lunchtime News
1.00pm Ant and Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
2.30pm What Would Your Kid Do?
3.30pm Tipping Point
4.30pm ITV Evening News
4.50pm ITV News London
5.00pm The Chase: Celebrity Special

6.00pm Dancing on Ice
8.00pm Endeavour
10.00pm ITV News
10.15pm Peston on Sunday
11.15pm Six Nations Highlights
12.10am 100 Year Old Driving School
12.35am Marcella
1.25am Jackpot247
3.00am Take on the Twenties
3.00am ITV Nightscreen
5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show
6.00am Good Morning Britain

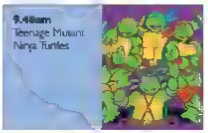
Channel 4

7.05am Everybody Loves Raymond
8.00am Frasier
9.00am Sunday Brunch

12.35pm Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast
1.30pm Jamie's Quick and Easy Food
2.00pm The Simpsons
2.30pm The Simpsons
2.55pm Tooth Fairy
5.00pm Ice Age: Continental Drift

6.35pm Channel 4 News
7.00pm Posh Pawn
8.00pm Hannibal's Elephant Army: The New Evidence
9.00pm Homeland
10.15pm Gogglebox
11.05pm Shutter Island
1.35am The World's Most Expensive Food
2.30am The Supervet
3.25am Four Rooms with Sarah Beeny
4.15am KOTV Boxing Weekly
4.40am Mind Your Language
5.10am Come Dine With Me

Channel 5



9.10am Digby Dragon
9.30am Peppa Pig
9.40am Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
10.05am Football on 5
11.35am The Bridge at Kennagen

1.00pm A Bridge Too Far
5.05pm Where Eagles Dare

8.00pm Football on 5
8.55pm 5 News Weekend
9.00pm Trainwreck
10.05pm 5 News
10.05pm Trainwreck
11.35pm Sex Tape
1.15am Super Casino
3.10am Cowboy Builders
4.00am My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
4.45am House Doctor
5.10am Divine Designs
5.35am Wildlife SOS
6.00am Fullin Rock
6.05am Poppy Cat

Its official.

Hearing aids can do more than improve your hearing.

Following a survey carried out in 2015 by Anovum (a market research company) on 1325 hearing impaired people (605 hearing aid wearers and 720 not wearing hearing aids). The survey reports that hearing aids not only improve capabilities of hearing well but also improved the general health of hearing aid wearers compared to hearing impaired people who do not wear a hearing aid. Hearing aid users are less likely to think they have the symptoms of dementia, feel less physically and mentally exhausted, sleep better and are less likely to suffer from depression.

The survey confirms what some Audiologists have suspected for some time, that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contribute to better and more active lives, better quality of life, and better overall health.

For the hearing impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that their hearing aids are useful for their job and that the hearing aids also increase the chance of them getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more salary compared to those hearing impaired people who have not obtained hearing aids.

The full report can be found at EuroTrak UK 2015 – ehima

A new hearing system is just the beginning and a hearing aid system is only as good as the audiologist prescribing and programming it.

At Keith Donaghy Hearingcare we offer the best bespoke hearing aid systems virtually unnoticeable fitting comfortably into your ear.

Keith will help you every step of the way whilst you adjust to your new hearing ability, for some this takes months for others a matter of a few weeks but Keith is always on hand to answer questions or give advice on getting the best from your system. The last thing he wants (as is often the case when insufficient aftercare is available) is for your hearing aids to end up in the back of a drawer somewhere, unused because you felt that nothing else could be done to rectify any programming or rehabilitation problems.

Keith wants to know if you have any concerns about your hearing aids, no matter how big or small, so that you and he can work together to achieve your results.

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BLACKWELL'S

Monday February 26th

TOP TV

BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV

Channel 4

Channel 5

MORNING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
9.15am Murder Mystery and My Family	7.15am Escape to the Country	8.30am Lorraine	7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun	8.25am Rusty Rivets
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer	8.00am Hugh's Wild West	9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show	7.25am Everybody Loves Raymond	8.25am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited	9.00am Victoria Derbyshire	10.30am The Morning	8.30am Frasier	9.05am Molly
11.45am Caught Red Handed	11.00am BBC Newsroom Live		10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	9.15am The Wright Stuff
	11.30am The Week in Parliament		11.00am Undercover Boss USA	11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
12.15pm Bargain Hunt	12.00pm The Daily Politics	12.30pm Loose Women	12.00pm Channel 4 News	12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
1.00pm BBC News at One	1.00pm Women's Six Nations Highlights	1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News	12.05pm Come Dine with Me	12.15pm Gifs Behind Closed Doors
1.30pm Regional News and Weather	1.30pm Perfection	1.55pm ITV News London	1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Doctors	2.15pm Yes Chef	2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure	2.10pm Countdown	1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	3.00pm A Place to Call Home	3.00pm Tenable	3.00pm A Place in the Sun	2.15pm NCIS
3.00pm Escape to the Country	3.55pm More Creatures Great and Small	4.00pm Tipping Point	4.00pm A New Life in the Sun	3.15pm Killer Obsession
3.45pm Get Away for Winter	4.25pm Caribbean with Simon Reeve	5.00pm The Chase	5.00pm Four in a Bed	5.00pm 5 News at 5
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip	5.25pm Flog It!		5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers	5.30pm Neighbours
5.15pm Pointless				

EVENING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
6.00pm BBC News at Six	6.00pm Eggheads	6.00pm ITV News London	6.00pm The Simpsons	6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm Regional News and Weather	6.30pm Great British Railway Journeys	6.30pm ITV Evening News	6.30pm Hollyoaks	6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The One Show	7.00pm Top Gear	7.00pm Emmerdale	7.00pm Channel 4 News	7.00pm Aviva Premiership Rugby Highlights
7.30pm Inside Out	8.00pm Only Connect	7.30pm Coronation Street	8.00pm Dispatches	8.00pm Extreme Winter Road Rescue
8.00pm EastEnders	8.30pm University Challenge	8.00pm The Martin Lewis Money Show	8.30pm Food Unwrapped	9.00pm The Unstoppable Flying Scotsman
8.30pm Classic Mary Berry	9.00pm Collateral	8.30pm Coronation Street	9.00pm 24 Hours in Police Custody	10.00pm The X Files
9.00pm MasterChef	10.00pm Two Doors Down	9.00pm Marcella	10.00pm Electric Dreams	11.00pm Elysium
10.00pm BBC News at Ten	10.30pm Newsnight	10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	11.05pm Married at First Sight	1.00am Super Casino
10.30pm Regional News and Weather	11.15pm Murdered for Love? Sirma Shahid	10.35pm ITV News London	12.10am The Hillsborough Estate's Cheapest Street	3.10am Cowboy Builders
10.45pm Have I Got Old News for You	12.15am Odyssey	10.40pm John Wetherys. The Tea Cafe Rapist with Susanna Reid	1.05am The Job Interview	4.00am My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
11.15pm The Graham Norton Show	12.55am Odyssey	11.50pm Serial Killer with Piers Morgan	2.00am Supershoppers Savers Special	4.45am House Doctor
12.05am Weather for the Week Ahead	1.40am Countryfile	12.40am Jackpot247	2.55am The Question Jury	5.10am Divine Designs
12.10am BBC News	2.50am Charles II's Treasures Reunited	3.00am The Jeremy Kyle Show	3.45am Coast v Country	
6.00am Breakfast				

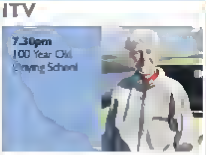
Tuesday February 27th

TOP TV

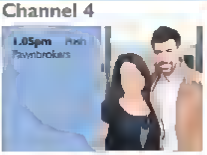
BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV



Channel 4



Channel 5

MORNING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
9.15am Murder Mystery and My Family	7.15am Wanted Down Under Revisited	8.30am Lorraine	7.10am 3rd Rock from the Sun	8.30am Digby Dragon
10.00am Homes Under the Hammer	8.00am Celebrity Antiques Road Trip	9.25am The Jeremy Kyle Show	7.25am Everybody Loves Raymond	8.35am Rusty Rivets
11.00am Wanted Down Under Revisited	9.50am Victoria Derbyshire	10.30am The Morning	8.50am Frasier	8.25am Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
11.45am Caught Red Handed	11.00am BBC Newsroom Live		10.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	9.05am Molly
			11.00am Undercover Boss USA	9.15am The Wright Stuff
				11.15am Can't Pay? We'll Take it Away!

AFTERNOON

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
12.15pm Bargain Hunt	12.00pm The Daily Politics	12.30pm Loose Women	12.00pm Channel 4 News	12.10pm 5 News Lunchtime
1.00pm BBC News at One	1.00pm The Super League Show	1.30pm ITV Lunchtime News	12.05pm Come Dine with Me	12.15pm Gifs Behind Closed Doors
1.30pm Regional News and Weather	1.45pm Plan it, Build it	1.55pm ITV News London	1.05pm Posh Pawnbrokers	1.15pm Home and Away
1.45pm Doctors	2.15pm Yes Chef	2.00pm James Martin's American Adventure	2.10pm Countdown	1.45pm Neighbours
2.15pm Shakespeare and Hathaway	3.00pm A Place to Call Home	3.00pm Tenable	3.00pm A Place in the Sun	2.15pm NCIS
3.00pm Escape to the Country	3.55pm More Creatures Great and Small	4.00pm Tipping Point	4.00pm A New Life in the Sun	3.15pm Killer Collector
3.45pm Get Away for Winter	4.25pm Caribbean with Simon Reeve	5.00pm The Chase	5.00pm Four in a Bed	5.00pm 5 News at 5
4.30pm Antiques Road Trip	5.30pm Flog It!		5.30pm Extreme Cake Makers	5.30pm Neighbours
5.15pm Pointless				

EVENING

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5
8.00pm BBC News at Six	6.00pm Eggheads	6.00pm ITV News London	6.00pm The Simpsons	6.00pm Home and Away
6.30pm Regional News and Weather	6.30pm Great British Railway Journeys	6.30pm ITV Evening News	6.30pm Hollyoaks	6.30pm 5 News Tonight
7.00pm The One Show	7.00pm Sea Cities : Brighton	7.00pm Emmerdale	7.00pm Channel 4 News	7.00pm Loch Lomond: A Year in the Wild
7.30pm EastEnders	8.00pm Back in Time for Tea	7.30pm 100 Year Old Driving School	8.00pm How to Get Fit Fast	
8.00pm Holby City	9.00pm Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby	8.00pm What Would Your Kid Do?	9.00pm 24 Hours in A and E	8.00pm Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh
9.00pm Shetland	10.00pm Mum	9.00pm 100 Years Younger in 21 Days	10.00pm The Fire Detectives	9.00pm Elizabeth, Our Queen
10.00pm BBC News at Ten	10.25pm The Archaeologists	10.00pm ITV News at Ten and Weather	11.00pm Before We Die	10.00pm Ben Fogle: Return to the Wild
10.30pm Regional News and Weather	10.30pm Newsnight	10.40pm Through the Keyhole	12.15am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA	11.05pm Sinkholes
10.45pm Aoi Attack, My Story	11.15pm An Island Parish	10.00pm Sunday Night at the Palladium	1.00am It's a Weird World	12.05am Weather Terror
11.30pm Miranda Hart: My What I Call, Live Show	12.15am Generation Gifted	12.35am Jackpot247	1.55am The Supervet	1.00am Super Casino
12.30am Weather for the Week Ahead	1.30am Royal Recipes	3.00am Loose Women	2.50am The Question Jury	3.10am Cowboy Builders
12.35am BBC News	2.00am This is BBC Two	3.50am ITV Nightscreen	3.45am Coast v Country	4.00am My Mum's Hotter Than Me!
6.00am Breakfast	6.00am Caught Red Handed	5.05am The Jeremy Kyle Show	4.00am Location, Location, Location	4.45am House Doctor

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Advertorial

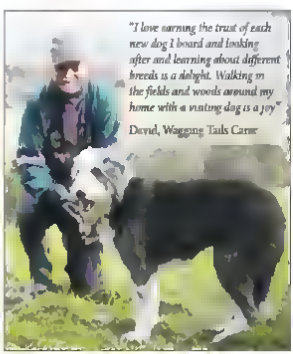
Dogs Needs a Holiday too

As we are a nation renowned for our love of animals, it is not surprising that many dog owners feel uncomfortable at the thought of going away and leaving their best friend behind, especially if kennels are not for them.

Wagging Tails provide a home from home dog boarding service where dogs stay with one of our carefully selected carers as a member of the family for their very own holiday. All of their carers are experienced dog owners and are at home during the day to give the dogs the warmth and comfort they would get at home, along with plenty of exercise and attention.

Dog carers wanted to give dogs a home based holiday. Join our family of dog sitters.

Due to the popularity of our service, they are always interested to hear from dog lovers wishing to join their team of carers.


"I love earning the trust of each new dog I board and looking after and learning about different breeds is a delight. Walking in the fields and woods around my home with a waiting dog is a joy"
David, Wagging Tails Carer

If you have experience of owning a dog but now find yourself without any pets, then providing a loving home by becoming a Wagging Tails carer can be both a fun and rewarding time for you and the dogs in your care. Alternatively perhaps you own one dog who would enjoy the company of a holiday guest!

This role is ideal for someone who is already working from home, house wife/husband or early retired.

And the benefits:

Companionship

You will get all the benefits and company of a dog without the commitment of full time ownership

Healthier Lifestyle

Having a dog to stay obviously means walking, but in addition to this studies have shown that owning a dog can also improve mood, decrease stress, lower blood pressure, ease chronic pain such as migraines and arthritis and lowers cholesterol.

Social

Giving a dog a holiday doesn't mean you only spend time with the dog. You will meet the owners of each dog who stays with you as well as other owners when out walking your guests—something that often leads to good friendship with fellow dog lovers!

Financial

In addition to the all the above benefits you will also receive a fee for welcoming your holiday guests into your home. Whilst it must be stressed that this will not replace a full time income, it can provide our carers with enough to pay for a nice holiday of their own and those little extra luxuries that we all deserve.

If you think you could welcome a dog into your family or would like further information about our services please call Teresa on 07762 132329 or visit www.waggingtailsuk.co.uk or email ox@waggingtailsuk.co.uk

Give a dog a holiday!

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- Extremely Durable
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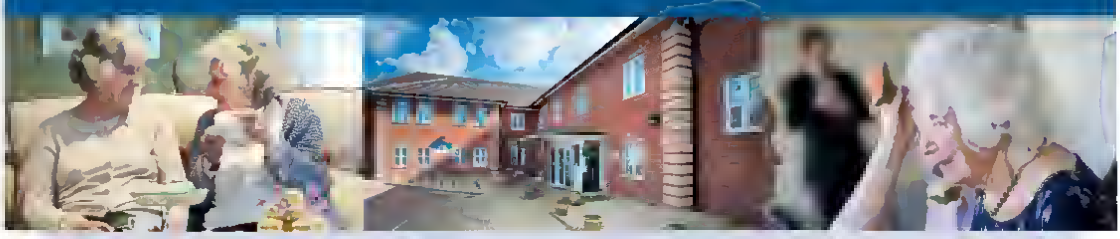
Dementia Nursing



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Advertising Feature

Who Cares?

Spring on the wing

You're never too old to be a bird-watcher, and bird-watching can be done anywhere with a window however mobile or otherwise you are. You can even buy clear plastic bird feeders that fix directly on to the outside of a window with suckers. Just add bird seed and wait as daytime entertainment flies in! Add binoculars to zoom in close – though do remember to check their suitability for older eyes. Because a person's pupils dilate less with age, binoculars for more elderly bird-watchers are less likely to benefit from the light channelled through larger binoculars, and so a lighter mid-sized pair may be best.

It's a great time of year to be bird-watching because winter has past and suddenly we can see the birds clearly before garden foliage grows too thick and dense, and flowers divert attention away from a tree's branches. There is also lots of activity in the air as nest-building commences: even in an urban yard, you can expect to see robins, sparrows, blue tits, blackbirds and other garden birds fly back and forth with twigs and other plant matter. Migrant birds such as the sand martin also fly back to Oxfordshire this month.

Traditional wisdom has, in the past, suggested that with the onset of meteorological spring, whatever the weather, birds should be beginning to fend for themselves and bird watchers should no longer provide a helping hand. But in the bird world, early March can be a time of acute shortages as the last of the berries have long been eaten and, given the human impact of the environment of changes in society over the last generation such as building on swathes of natural land and the removal of hedgerows for modern farming methods, it can be hard for birds to find adequate resources this month so supplementing the diet of local birds can make a real difference to their strength and breeding capacity.

A bird feeder is good for the bird populations as well as bringing them into your view and earshot – and the sound of a bird's call can be very evocative, triggering memories of childhood or past adventures in the great outdoors. For those whose horizons have shrunk over time and sometimes feel caged by circumstance, the chirpy tones from outside the window can be uplifting.

It's a welcome feeling, knowing spring is on its way.

Esther Lafferty, *Day and Night-care Assistance*

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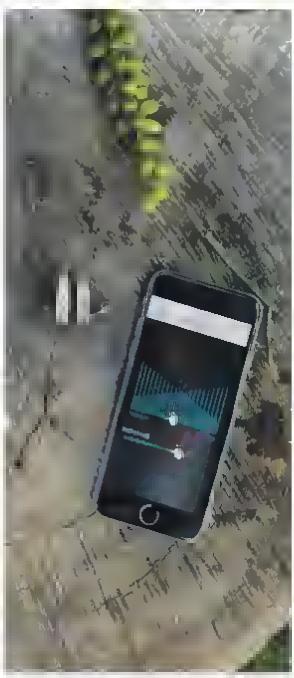

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MARTIN&CO

Oxford Private Rents Average £27.92 per sq. foot

Bill Cooper co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

Gone are the days of making money by buying any old Oxford property to rent out or sell on Nowadays property investment is part art and part science. The art is your gut reaction to a property but science must also play its part on a property's future viability for investment.

Many metrics most property professionals (including myself) use when deciding the viability of a rental property is what properties are selling for, the average rent, the yield and an average value per square foot.

However another metric I like to use is the average rent per square foot. The reason being it is a great way to judge a property from the point of view of the tenant .. what space do they get for their money Like people buying a property, tenants must balance between better vs. worse location, more vs less money and larger vs smaller accommodation

I know there are a lot of you in Oxford who like to read statistics on the Oxford property market so before I talk about the rental figures per square foot, I wanted to share the £ per square foot for sales values In Oxford, the current AVERAGE figures being achieved by properties are.

- Oxford Detached Property - £472 / sq ft
- Oxford Semi Detached Property - £476 / sq ft
- Oxford Terraced Property - £509 / sq ft
- Oxford Apartments - £537 / sq ft

So the rental figures:

The average size of a rental property in the Oxford area is 833.2 sq ft compared to the national average of 792.1 sq ft.

This means the average rent per square foot currently being achieved on an Oxford rental property is £27.92 per sq ft per annum

So what we can deduce from this? Well the devil is in detail

Something quite intriguing happens to the figures, in terms of what the property will sell for and what it will rent for as the size of the property increases.

My research shows that doubling the size of any Oxford property doesn't mean you will double the value of it in either value or rent. This is because the marginal value diminishes as the size of the property increases In Oxford what appears to happen is that a doubling of size gives an approximate 40% to 65% uplift in value, but here comes the even more fascinating part when it came to the rental figures, doubling the size of the house generates only a 20% to 45% increase in rent.

Major milestone for retirement builder.... as Wantage development hits 50% sold out

Renaissance Retirement has announced it has reached a major milestone having sold 50 per cent of its new retirement apartments in Wantage.

The development opened in November and sales have been encouraging with over 15 apartments sold to date, making it one of the company's fastest selling developments

Over £1m of top end retirement apartments were sold in the opening week when the company opened the doors to the public and the company has reported another two sales in January

The development, built on the former magistrates court and Police station on Church Street, comprises 32 one and two bed spacious apartments. The company has been attracting a wide range of interested buyers from the local area.

Renaissance Retirement s sales director Matt Smith said. "It's a very encouraging start We are now over 50 per cent sold out and have good interest in a number of apartments. It's an exciting time for potential buyers having this choice of size of apartment and central location in Wantage."

Matt added: "There is very strong interest in the Wantage area for good quality retirement apartments Our sales message is clear—come and view some very smart, spacious energy efficient flats while there's good availability"

Chris Wotton, marketing director at Renaissance Retirement said. "If it s an easier lifestyle people are looking for this is perfect. Only a few hundred steps to the market square you have superb access to the very best Wantage offers on your doorstep."

Renaissance Retirement claims it's responding to market demand with its development which offers bigger more spacious retirement flats.

The luxurious properties will provide an exceptional standard of independent living for those considering downsizing from a larger family home.

The spacious one and two bedroom apartments are impeccably finished with contemporary interiors whilst owners also have access to an owners' drawing room and landscaped gardens.

Renaissance Retirement has a distinguished history the company was handpicked by HRH Prince of Wales to build a landmark collection of retirement apartments in the heart of Poundbury Dorchester

Noticing a demand for luxury retirement housing, Renaissance Retirement design, build and manage luxury retirement developments, with communal areas meticulously cleaned and maintained to ensure a level of comfort that one would expect in a 4 star hotel.

The company offers a number of added owner incentives and benefits, and Renaissance's complementary SmoothMove Service—which is offered to all owners at no extra cost – has proven particularly popular This bespoke service includes a dedicated SmoothMove Consultant, who can offer advice and assistance with downsizing, the planning and setting up of their new home, and administrative tasks.

Prices start from £280 000 to £475,000

Interested buyers can drop in for a tour Monday to Sunday 10 30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To register your interest for a brochure, and for further information, visit: www.renaissancegroup.co uk or 01235 766398 for more information.

PROPERTY WEEKLY

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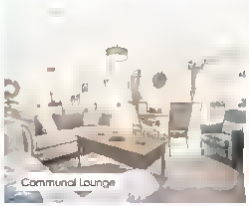

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BURCOT A superb 4-bed family home of generous proportions situated in the highly desirable village cul-de-sac. Benefits include single garage with electric up and over door and utility space cleverly designed at the back. EPC Rating D

£680,000 Abingdon office 01235 526907

CHOLSEY For sale with no onward chain this 4 bed end-terrace is set in a tucked away position, in the beautiful grounds of Cholsey Meadows. The property is stylish and modern with the mainline station just 1 mile away. EPC Rating B

£455,000 Wallingford office 01491 833323

APPLEFORD Refurbished throughout inc new quality flooring, accommodation comprises refitted kitchen and bathroom, 3 bedrooms, lounge with open fire place and dining area, extension over looking the garden. EPC Rating D

£455 000 Abingdon office 01235 526907

WANTAGE A well proportioned and presented, individually architect designed detached home. Including oak doors throughout, zoned under floor heating, downstairs and open plan kitchen/diner with bi-fold doors. EPC Rating B

£375,000 Wantage office 01235 772670

WALLINGFORD Significantly improved by the current owners this cottage has numerous selling features; 2 bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, a first floor bathroom and downstairs WC and double glazed sash windows. EPC Rating D

£385,000 Wallingford office 01491 833323

GROVE An extended detached home with south facing garden, driveway and garage. With three good sized bedrooms, open plan living/dining room, study/kitchen with access to the rear garden and separate bathroom & W/C. EPC Rating D

£350,000 Wantage office 01235 772670

CHILTON An individual cottage style house situated in a private courtyard development of just 11 properties. The heart of the home is a wonderful rear aspect lounge with raised ceiling and doors out to the garden. EPC Rating C

£335,000 Didcot office 01235 818371

WALLINGFORD A charming 2 bedroom semi-detached property set on a pretty lane with an impressive plot in the very heart of Cholsey, with the train station just 0.4 miles away. EPC Rating C

£335 000 Wallingford office 01491 833323

GROVE A mid terrace home with parking and garage. Open plan living/dining room, separate kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate W/C. Enclosed rear garden with raised deck, patio and rear access. EPC Rating D

£255 000 Wantage office 01235 772670

DIDCOT This one bedroom starter home on the popular Ladygrove development and is located just a short distance from Didcot town centre amenities and mainline Train Station. No onward chain. EPC Rating D

£185,000 Didcot office 01235 818371

ABINGDON ON THAMES The ground floor 2 bed apartment has its own entrance and offers an open-plan living room/diner with triple aspect views over the Manna Basin. Available March. Unfurnished. EPC Rating C.

£1,500 p.c.m + fees Abingdon office 01235 526907

DIDCOT A two bedroom terraced house located in a quiet cul-de-sac on the popular Ladygrove Estate conveniently established near to Didcot Parkway and Didcot Town Centre. Unfurnished and available early April. EPC Rating C

£925 p.c.m + fees Didcot office 01235 818371

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Subaru Levorg 1.6i SE GT Lineartronic

Boxer really helps Levorg to pack a punch

By **Tony Yates**

This week's review puts me in the driving seat of the Subaru Levorg. But, straight away I know what you are all thinking, what is a Subaru Levorg ? Well, I'm glad you asked that question because the Levorg is a car that you don't see very often on the UK roads, and until my test drive this week, I didn't know much about it either. What I will say though is that the Levorg really is the wolf in sheep's clothing.

So yes, this is a large vehicle, but it's certainly no slouch.

So in the real world, does the Boxer engine design work? Well, for me it does. It sounds great, gets a move on with minimal fuss and has plenty of low down grunt. Yes it's not as refined as some, but then again I don't want it to be refined, I want to feel that characteristic Boxer engine thumping away ahead of me as I head for the hills.

On the road

The Levorg feels great on any road surface and that's thanks to its predictable handling and smooth ride. Remember the Levorg also has some decent off-road capabilities and is in itself an effortless car to drive thanks mainly to the Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive layout which includes an active torque split system which helps further increase the off-road credentials of the Levorg.

Then, there are the brakes which feel very good thanks to 316mm ventilated discs at the front and 300mm at the rear. I kid you not, hit the pedal like you mean it, and the Levorg will come to a controlled stop in no time at all. So, no issues there then.

Design & technology

Some of the standard equipment on the Levorg comes in the form of Automatic LED headlights, 16" aluminum alloy wheels, automatic air conditioning system, 7" multifunction colour touchscreen, EyeSight, 4.3" LCD multi information display, adaptive cruise control, ABS with Electronic Brake-force Distribution, front, side, curtain & knee airbags, Thatcham Cat 1 alarm, Immobiliser, Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, Vehicle Dynamics Control, Hill Start Assist, Active Torque Vectoring plus some of the most comfortable seats I have ever sat in.

You also get an auto dimming rearview mirror, power windows, welcome lighting, Bluetooth dual USB ports, reversing camera and a voice recognition system. Of course, as usual I have only just scratched the surface on what the Levorg has to offer.

Power & efficiency

The Levorg was equipped with a 1600cc Boxer – horizontally opposed DOHC 16V direct injection turbo petrol engine – a unit that provides a maximum power output of 170 PS @4,800 – 5,600rpm and a torque figure of 250Nm @1,600 – 4,800rpm. On the combined cycle I achieved 36mpg, which is not outstanding, but still good for a car that I consider to be a big vehicle. If you are interested, the Levorg will also reach a top speed of around130mph and 0-62mph of 6.9s.

To sum up

The Levorg is a decent car with plenty to offer. It's like a dependable dog: it will be everything you ever wanted it to be and then some. Although, there are areas where I feel the interior could feel a touch more special. But saying that, it's still very functional and the drive is very rewarding thanks mainly to that unmistakable Boxer sound. I'm going to give the Levorg four stars in this test because it truly is a machine that will always deliver.

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*UK, 18+. Refer between 17:30 – 18:30 on 22.02.18. Attend a New Volvo XC40 launch event at a Volvo retailer and register details for a chance to win a New XC40 R-Design or Harman Kardon SoundSticks Wireless Speaker System. Subject to capacity limits. Visit XC40eventcouk for full Terms and Conditions. Registered Name: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Registered Office: Johnsons Cars Ltd, Empire Court, Albert Street, Redditch, Worcestershire B97 4DA Registration No. 3716758 VAT Registration No. GB672581616

Volvo XC40 crowned What Car? Car of the Year

- Volvos first ever compact SUV named What Car? Car of the Year 2018
- XC40 also takes Best Family SUV title
- Praised for its style quality, comfort and safety
- Volvo XC60 wins What Car? Safety Award

The Volvo XC40 has won the What Car? Car of the Year 2018 award, just four months after it went on sale

The What Car? judges were seriously impressed with the premium XC40, saying. "This is a big moment for Volvo, because the XC40 has beaten some truly exceptional rivals to win here. With its mix of comfort and class, safety and style, the new XC40 excels in all the areas that are important to buyers.

The XC40 brings a new level of flair and desirability to the compact SUV class. It mixes bold looks with cutting-edge technology, along with class-leading safety and ingenious interior storage

Every version of the XC40 is also exceptionally well equipped. Even entry level versions come with a nine-inch touch screen control system, satellite navigation, LED headlights, dual-zone climate control with a sophisticated interior air-quality system, and 18 inch alloy wheels The innovative Volvo On Call remote control and emergency assistance system is also standard on every model.

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Commenting on the awards, Jon Wakefield, Managing Director of Volvo Car UK, said: "Winning the overall What Car? Car of the Year award for the XC40 is a fantastic result not just for everyone here in the UK but for Volvo as a global company The XC40 perfectly showcases the bold new direction Volvo is taking, and brings our class-leading connectivity, semi autonomous drive technology and innovative storage solutions to the premium compact SUV segment.

"We are immensely proud of the XC40, and for the experts at What Car? to award it their ultimate accolade is the perfect start to what will be a hugely significant year for Volvo."

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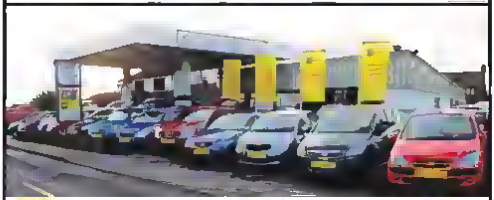

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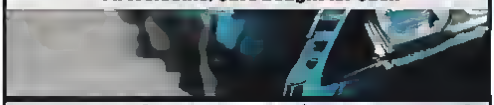

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AutoWeekly

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ARON Cardigan blue Aron wool quite heavy neutral colour size 14 £20 tel 01865 454713

LADIES classic casual coat colour cream brown trim full length size 14 £30 tel. 01865 454713

ECCO shoes light brown suede laces size 6 never worn cost £75 new now £40 tel 01865 454713

JESSOPS 8inch digital picture frame £25 tel 01865 763851

PARKER Knowle small arm chair wooden arms £15 tel 01865 763851

STAG Minstrel three mirrored 5ft dressing table with five small drawers knee hole excellent condition £30 no offers tel. 01235 530424

STAG Minstrel high chest four drawers plus three small ones excellent condition £20 no offers tel. 01235 530424

TOM Tom one set nav old but in good working order with box and books £20 tel 01865 433086

LADIES bike 26in wheels front and rear carriers 1st tyres good non £10 tel 01865 433086

RECLINING deck of chairs 2 with cushions UPVC white £5 each 3 folding deck chairs metal frame £5 tel: 01865 433086

GARDEN tools fork spade shovel and other bits £10 pole hedge cutter electric heavy duty £35 tel: 01865 433086

1883 Queen Victoria 50 cents coin brooch £50 jewellery assorted necklaces two gents naga maybe gold £30 the lot tel. 01295 258550

VERY nice large Rolls Royce tea pot £25 also swan tea pots £3 each tel: 01295 258550

SLIDING glass w/ drobe doors two cream and colonred one mirrored to fit recess 2.3m x 2.36 buyer collects £60 tel: 01491 281281

SAMSUNG 32" LCD TV good working order remote control instructions booklet and new leads £70 tel OX 37183

DC rack black metal H 125 holds 75 very compact excel fits a space saver £7 tel: 07980403171

NISSAN headlamp/ side lit 04-06 Almera model nice condition as new £20 tel: 07980403171

GARDEN Pebbles mixed sizes approx. 50 in total. Nice in ornamental pool or garden 1st/gang £12 tel. 07980403171

PLAYEN piano rons £8 each tel. 01295 467527

WANTED country artists/country birds collection bird ornaments tel: 01235 533363

CLAUD Butler racing bike 14 gears good condition offers tel: 01235 533363

JAMES Bond's Fierce Brosnan BF advert display signed in black marker £40 tel. 01189 687840

M&S blazer dark navy woollen size 14-16 length 30 £15 tel 01235 523162

TRENCH style mac 14-16 dark green £10 tel. 01235 523162

POPLIN jackets size 14 £10 tel 01235 523162

MISS Woolen Navy Blazer £15 tel: 01235 523162

MAMBO traction engine tel. 01235 523598

DELUX four wheeled mobility walker with seat and brakes light weight but sturdy folds flatter then usual type £60 tel 01865 327635

WANTED wheelchair with dig or small wheels must be up to date and in excellent condition tel: 01865 327635

SABYS high chair for sale very good condition £10 buyer collects Witney tel 07756 644842

BRAND new portable record player for sale Unwanted gift black case easy carry Witney tel: 07756 644842

PAUL Smith blue jeans regular style 34" waist length £20 M&S dark navy blazer size 14-16 30in tel. 01235 523162

NAVY Blazer size 14-16 woollen £15 poplin jacket for sale £10 for 2 size 14 tel. 01235 523162Petrol strimmer with hedge cutter attachment g/con £30 tel 01235 835608

MCCULLOCH electrical chain new good condition £20 tel 01235 835608

AIR rifle 2.2 good condition £50 tel. 01235 835508

NEW steam generator iron only £50 marks black ankle boots like new size 6 £8 tel 01295 258550

FAVERS cross stitch flat shoes cream and beige size 6 like new £10 tel. 01295 258550

THREE-PIECE suite one recliner chair one arm chair one three-seater two cushion sofa £260 tel 01235 676480

WINTER wheels hedgehog sleeves for 12 inch trolley wheels with clips and instructions boxed unused £10 tel 01295 255173

MENS shoes size 8 blank all leather Tywhitt Alnwick beggist boxed unused top quality UK made £50 tel: 01295 255173

FOUR NGK glow plugs suitable for citreon/ Peugeot 1.6 diesel unused boxed £15 tel 01865 881271

ONE set finger rotors for merry tiller rotavator £30 tel 01865 881271

KNITTING machine Passap Duomatic needs tlc many extras paheme offers tel 01236 211754

WALKING running exercise machine not electric £10 tel: 07514 881646

TWO motorcycle helmets and gloves £5 each tel: 07514 881646

BIKE rack fixes to towbar holds two bikes £10 tel 07514 881646

BRAND new slush wall mounted 3KW electronic industrial fan heater with stat ideal garage workshop etc £20 ono tel: 07514 881646

FIVE old cider jugs stone various sizes and old pots bottles £25 ono tel. 07514 881646

DINING table removeable centre six seater incinding two carvers green fabric as six reproduction style vgn £150 tel 01869 360416

FLYMO Hover lawn mower used once £40 tel 01869 360416

KEY lock safe size H20 W31 D20 nms wgoe cat number 834 3240 £15 tel 07979 370112

SENTRY fire resistant box key lock 35x24x14 external size £15 tel 07979 370112

NOOVER condensen tumble dryer used once as new cost £229 sell for £100 tel 01844 237901

MIRROR wall hang ng ornate gold coloured frame 80cm height 58cm wide includ ing frame 320 ono tel. 07979 370112

MOBILE phone with charger old and basin £8 tel. 07979 370112

SUITCASE pair silver hard sided 2 wheels h50 w40 d23 cms other smaller fits inside £30 wil separate tel 07979 370112

MOBILTY scooter free oldish needs battery buyer collects does work need clean and oiling up tel 01235 821338

LADIES bike jungle speed with basket and pump £50 ono 4 videos of Will Hay £25 ono tel. 07585 067412

STERAD double central heating radiator 700 mm high 600mm long as new tel: 07484 204662

STERAD double central heating radiator 700mm high 600mm long as new £20 tel: 07484 204662

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CORDON Bleu slow cooker good condition £5 tel 01865 736164

PHILIPS hostess trolley very good condition £30 tel 01865 736164

CARRY crate for small dog or cat folds into shoulder bag when not required as new condition £25 tel. 07954 130952

TWO galvanized watering cans rated a clean £15 tel 01235 211833

NABITAT ceramic table lamp matt grey £15 tel. 01235 211833

BASIES high chair very good condition£10 buyer collects Witney tel 07756 84482

STORAGE case for jigsaw puzzles hardly used cost £30 agns asking £10 tel. 01865 320010

WANTED magazines horse beautiful any mags on decorating any condition tel 01865 320010

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FOUR-STEP aluminium ladder never used with original packing as new £10 tel. 01865 711077

MICHAEL Jackson 12" picture disc RAO plus 9 tracks in clear plastic cover £10 tel. 01865 711077

HUMLIN 5-in-1 wireless headphones boxed as new £10 tel. 01865 711077

ROWING machine home bench press and weights plastic coated barely used £45 tel 07884 494030

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SNOW board sempro wild duck 154 pale green design or dack very good condition £85 tel. 07980 351717

FOR sale gel slim fw spring exercise ball dvd and books still boxed £5 tel OX 873408

LOTS of shoes nearly new size 4 and 5 £5 to £10 good makes tel 01865 873408

WANTED old Merry Tiller rotavator for spare parts tel. 01865 850539

MOUNTFIELD 21" mower with grass box £150 ono tel. 01865 850539

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MENS navy overcoat 90% wool size large VGC £10 tel. 01993 882022

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9CT y gold smoky quartz and citrine cluster ring approx. 5 carats size n £45 tel 01865 875838

8CT y gold green amethyst and tsavorite garnets ring. Approx. 6 carats size n £45 tel. 01865 875838

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ONE Vax carpet cleaner used 3 times £50 tel 01865 341135

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CD racks 124" high holds 70 celour black total of 4 £5 each as new tel. 07980 403171

NISSAN Almera head lamp year 03-06 as new £20 ono tel. 07980 403171

BRIANO new unfinished hard wood deer stool by 6foot. 2foot ..6ft to be collected £20 tel 07714791662

QUALCAST garden strummer in good working order £15 ono tel: 01993 771823

GARMIN sat nav £10 tel 01993 771823

CARAVAN spare wheel new and unused tyre size 185R 14C 104/102 STR000 cargo max £50 ono tel: 01993 771823

WANTED towbar for Renault Kangoo 06 tel: 01865 881271

WANTED for Renault Kangoo handbook 1200 petrol 06 reg tel: 01865 881271

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DRAINAGE channels for surface water 6x1m heavy duty black plastic ideal for patios or footpaths £30 the set tel. 07980 35717

MENS golf shoes size 10 never worn still in box cost £30 sell for £10 tel. 01235 764421

HOOVER washing machine black 5kg 1400 spin speed fully digital vgc only £149 tel. 07743030349

LIGHT oak dining suite extending table six chairs with leather seats truly excellent £250 tel. 01865 863528

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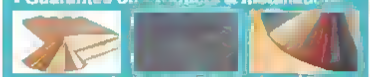

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Cars revealed, drivers ready

Thrills and spills ahead in new F1 season

F1

DRIVERS named, new cars unveiled and specs confirmed – the 2018 Formula One season is nearly here.

The three Oxfordshire teams – Williams, Renault and Haas – were among the first to launch their cars for the coming season.

Regulations introduced for the 2018 season mean all the cars are equipped with a halo cockpit safety device and have had the sharkfin engine cover and T-wing removed.

Haas was first out of the gate when it revealed its VF-18 challenger last Wednesday.

The Banbury outfit, who finished eighth last season for the second year running, hope the new racer will enable them to "close the gap to the top teams".

Ross Gunther Steiner said the car was an "evolution" of last year's model.

Williams was next to follow with their FW41 at a reveal event in London on Thursday.

The Grove-based team, who will be led by two young drivers Lance Stroll and Sergey Sirotkin, will be looking to better their fifth-placed finish in 2017.

Chief technical officer Paddy Lowe promised a raft of changes underneath and that, externally, "significant progress" has been made in aero performance.

Renault joined the party when they revealed their RS18 car on Tuesday.

It is the Enstone side's third chassis since returning to the sport as a factory team. After working on the suspension and downforce, "progression and refinement" on last year's car is expected.

Red Bull and Sauber are the other two teams to unveil their cars so far.

Mercedes and Ferrari are expected to reveal their cars today (Thursday).

McLaren are expected to pull the cloth back tomorrow with Toro Rosso set to reveal its livery on Monday. Force India's date is unconfirmed.

The new season starts on March 25 in Melbourne, Australia.

Renault's RS18
Picture: Renault Sport Formula One

Haas' VF-18
Picture: Haas F1

Great week for young skiier

Skiing

OXFORD skiing sensation Adrian Yung finished off his week at the English Alpine Championships with another top-half finish to confirm his status as one of the country's best young skiers.

The 13-year-old skis for CDC Performance and has been competing in Bormio, Italy, at the Rossignol sponsored event which showcases the next generation of top British skiers.

And the Oxfordshire alpine racer started his week off with his best result of the Championships: a seventh-place finish in the Super G, before taking 11th in the second Super G and 15th in the giant slalom.

"It's been alright here this week," the teenager said.

"I haven't quite got the results I was hoping for but I guess I'm coming away with plenty of things I need to work on and I've got plenty of ideas of what to do.

"My favourite thing this week was the Super G. I've done the best in that and I just enjoy all Super Gs I think, they are always a bit faster and more exhilarating.

"Bormio has been a great week overall anyway."

Yung is now planning on returning to training, with the intention of breaking into the top five in his events, and will compete at the British Championships next month in pursuit of those goals.

■ Inspired by the performances at the 2018 English Alpine Championships and PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Games? Find out more on how to get involved in skiing and snowboarding through Snowsport England's national grassroots participation campaign at www.goskigoboard.org.uk

Good signs in second tests

MotoGP

BRADLEY Smith believes his KTM team is more in the mix following the second MotoGP testing session ahead of next month's season opener.

The Forest Hill rider finished 16th at the weekend's testing session in Thailand, up three places from last month's session in Malaysia.

The 27-year-old was encouraged by braking improvements as the Red Bull outfit tested a new chassis as well as new suspension and aerodynamic parts.

Smith said: "I think that we're in a better situation than we were in after Malaysia. The strength of the KTM last year was under braking and that's very important here in Thailand and we found it much better this week.

"It's been good to test here and learn the track and we're definitely more in the mix compared to the Malaysian test."

Injury forced team-mate Pol Espargaro to sit out the three-day test but Smith and stand-in Mika Kallio made "significant" progress with the KTM RC16 bike, the team said.

Team manager Mike Leitner praised Smith's "great job" in testing, adding: "I think that we've been able to see a direction for us to follow for the start of the season and that we can be quite happy with this test."

There is a final testing session in Qatar on March 1 before the 2018 season gets off to a racing start at the Losail International Circuit in the same country on March 18.

Easy win over the tame Lions

Ice Hockey

BOTTOM of the table Lee Valley Lions were never going to cause too much fuss for top of the table Oxford City Stars, who cruised to an 8-0 win on Sunday.

Kamil Kinkor was the star of the show in east London with a hat-trick.

The Lions are still without a win the season and are on a run that has reaped a solitary point in 19 games.

No one was surprised then that City strolled to victory.

Goals from Joshua Oliver (8 minutes), Matthew Lawday (11) and two from Kinkor (9 & 20) gave the away side a 4-0 lead after the first period.

Kinkor's third (29) and a Michael Whitlock (35) strike extended the lead to six by the end of the middle session before Dominic Hopkins (44) and Andrew Cox (56) rounded off the easy win in the final 20.

The victory extended Oxford's winning run to five games, a run that tallied up half a century of goals for the Oxpens Road side – conceding only seven during the same spell.

Oxford are top by one point, although nearest rivals Solent Devils have a game in hand and Bracknell Bees, six points off the pace, have four games in hand.

Stars face a double header next week when they travel to Invicta Mustangs (12th) on Saturday and entertain second-bottom Swindon Wildcats II the following day.

Chinnor up the pressure on high-fliers Cinderford

Rugby

CHINNOR continue to pile pressure on table-toppers Cinderford while Henley Hawks suffered a third straight defeat in a 13 try thriller away to Redruth on Saturday

Second-placed Chinnor earned another bonus-point win as they ran out 24 19 victors over strugglers Old Redcliffians to move 15 points clear of Taunton Titans and Redingensians.

Henley's 49 38 defeat leaves them seventh in the National League Division Two South Table on 63 points

Henley take on Taunton in their next league fixture on March 3, while Chinnor welcome Barnstaple

Elsewhere Grove slipped to a 45-3 defeat at Marlow to make it 16 defeats for the season leaving them in 13th on 27 points one place above bottom club Bicester who slupped more than a century to Old Patesians losing 109-7

At the other end of the table, fifth-placed Witney fell 34 29 at Swindon, while Oxford Harlequins were on match for in-form second-placed Banbury whose 36-17 win earned them 10 straight victories.

In the Southern Counties North, Gosford All Blacks remain 11th on 10 points after losing 34-5 at home to Aylesbury

Mid-table Didcot defeated bottom club Abingdon 19 15 in the Berks Bucks & Oxon Premier as Wheatley lost to league leaders Slough, while Littlemore remain ahead of the chasing pack after beating Milton Keynes 54 13

Henley Hawks fought hard but could not stop a rampant Redruth
Picture *Steve Karpa*

Oxfordshire football results

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Jack trumps King's to a point

By George Welch

Banbury United

UPBEAT Mike Ford was full of praise for his Banbury United players after stealing four points from high-flying teams in an encouraging couple of weeks.

United conceded a last minute equaliser at leaders King's Lynn Town on Saturday, adding to the three-points gained at in-form Slough Town the previous week.

Jark Self gave Banbury a shock second half lead against King's Lynn before Tony Hilliard grabbed a stoppage time equaliser to share the points

But for Ford the point was still a point gained, not two points lost

"I'm pleased with the point," he said. "The late equaliser shouldn't detract from what was a fantastic performance

"We've just taken four points me our travels against two of the sides that are going to be vying for the play-off or the championship at the end of the season We should be really pleased with our efforts over the last couple of weeks and since the turn of the year our performances and results have shown really good steps forward."

United were indebted to goalkeeper Jack Harding who put on quite a show to thwart Liam Meltam, Michael Gash and Ryan Hawkins. Charlie Hawtin also had to be alert to clear a Hawkins effort off the line

The deadlock was broken on 72 minutes when Leam Howards released Self, who calmly fired past Alex Street in the Linnets goal from 12 yards

But Banbury failed to hold on as, in the third minute of stoppage time Hilliard fired home from 18 yards to earn a point

Ford added. "[It was a] good result, we would have taken the result before kick off and the disappointment comes because we conceded so late.

"But I thought as another movement forwards in the development of the team we were excellent."

The Puritans sit eighth, four points off the play-offs, but sixth placed Slough Town and seventh-placed Royston Town have seven and three games in hand respectively

Banbury have only lost twice in their 11 games this calendar year and are unbeaten in four matches

They welcome Kings Langley (21st) to the Banbury Plant Community Stadium on Saturday

Extra extra time winner for Abingdon

Hellenic round-up

A 95th minute winner from John Dennis earned Abingdon United a dramatic 2-1 win over Lydney Town as they continued their fine February form.

The left midfielder netted the all important goal to extend United's winning run to three games in a month that has also seen the Vale side win the reverse fixture against Lydney and overcome Longlevens.

Charlie Bateman struck midway through the first half to give Abingdon the lead, but the teams went in at half time level after Frankie Johnson scored for the hosts two minutes before the break

Lydney are now winless in 11 games and their lack of confidence proved pivotal as Deonus delightful lob secured maximum points deep into added time

Meanwhile, five-star Wantage Town continued their 100 per cent record for 2018 as they made it a quintuple of league wins with a 2-0 win over lowly Fairford Town.

Steve Robertson got the opener in the first half (34 minutes) and Nick Thorne (73) made the points secure with a second half strike

Fairford were denied a way back into the game on 78 minutes when Curtis Meare saved Dan Reynolds' penalty

Elsewhere Oxford City Nomads lost their fourth successive game in all competitions with a 2-0 defeat at Tuffley Rovers.

Warren Mann gave Rovers the lead on the half hour mark before Nomads were reduced to 10 men. Shayne Anson added Tuffley's second on 93 minutes

Birdies and bogeys pepper Eddie's 72-holes in Oman

Golf

ABINGDON golfer Eddie Pepperell lost to settle for a tied 44th place finish at the NBO Oman Open – despite striking 15 birdies

The Frilford Heath member also dropped shots on 11 holes—including three double bogeys – to finish one-under par on 287 following three rounds of 71 and a 74 to earn just over €7,000 in prize money

Pepperell shot rounds of 71 to make the halfway cut in the inaugural tournament with his Friday showing much steadier than the opening day

A damaging third round, which consisted of a double-bogey seven at the 16th hole meant he slipped 18 places to 49th with 18 holes to go.

Following a par front nine on the final day the 27 year-old looked like breaking 70 for the first time in the tournament, before dropping shots at both the 15th and 16th holes to finish with his third 71

So a tied 44th place finish it was for Pepperell who survived the full tournament for the first time this year

Dutchman Joost Luiten won the competition after carding a final round of 68 to finish on a 16-under-par 272 He finished two shots ahead of Englishman and closest rival Chris Wood

Pepperell tees off from the 10th tee at the Commercial Bank Qatar Masters today (Thursday) at 7am local time 4am GMT The tournament is the final one of the Middle Eastern leg of the European Tour

Youngsters put through the hoops at trial

Basketball

THREE young basketball players have been invited to trial for the South England Under 11 team in April.

Ten-year-olds Rhys Saunders, from All Saints C of E School in Didcot and William Kent from Marsh Gibbon C of E School in Bicester, impressed selectors so much the pair have been invited to a final selection session on April 8

Eight-year-old Reeve Mahalingham, a pupil at Abingdon Preparatory School, was also asked to attend the April trials, but the Year 4 pupil is too young and will have to wait another year to compete at the Under 11 level.

The trio of South Oxfordshire Heat Basketball Club youngsters will be joined at the event by 25 other players from Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Hampshire

The club's trustees said. "One of our players [L K. Mahalingham] was the only Oxfordshire based player to be selected to play in the Under 11 National Tournament last season and Hustle [Kent] and Deadshot [Saunders] are continuing that basketball tradition.

"They have both been at almost every practice and their hard work in training and fighting spirit on the court has made the difference

"The invitation to trial has only been extended to just over 20 players from the hundreds who play club basketball across four counties so it is a remarkable achievement to have made it thus far"

The South England team will play other UK regions in the National Tournament in June.

William 'Hustle' Kent on the ball

Sam's the man as City comeback in Cornwall

By George Welch

Oxford City

SUPERSTAR Sam Nombe was the star of the show as Oxford City staged a stunning second half fight back against play-off side Truro City

The Cornwall outfit stormed to a 2-0 lead but surrendered their advantage in the second session as City fought back in spectacular style.

The Hoops were two down within 20 minutes as goals from Ben Gerring (10 minutes) and Aaron Lamont (19) looked to have doomed Mark Jones' side to another away defeat.

Nombe came in for his first start in his second appearance and the forward led the fight back.

The Milton Keynes Dons loanee scored twice with a couple of composed finishes after a Matt Paterson penalty shortly after the restart got Oxford back into the game.

A jubilant Jones said it was "fantastic" comeback.

He said. "A lot of teams 2-0 down away from home in Truro might have caved in a bit but it shows the tremendous attitude of the players

"We have been questioned quite a few times on various things but usually we bounce back.

"It s a great feeling when you come back from 2 0 down to win a game and we also showed some resilience in the last few minutes to defend things which was pleasing to see."

The stunning 3-2 win lifted City two places to 15th before midweek games saw them slip to 16th.

But the latest triumph, which made it back-to-back wins for the first time since November moved the Hoops to seven points above the relegation zone.

Unsurprisingly Jones confessed going 2 0 down was not part of the plan– but he was proud of his players that staged the comeback.

He said after the game "It was a good all round performance but I'm not going to lie we certainly didn't want to go 2-0 down – it was o t part of the plan – but what a way to win a game

"We should praise the players – they did great for us. It s certainly going to make the five-hour journey home a little bit more pleasurable."

City travel to third-placed Chelmsford City on Saturday

Didcot Town players celebrate Ollie Thomas' goal – the Railwaymen's third – in a massive win over Evesham United Picture *Rogar Naal*

Second half goals seal win

Evo Stik round-up

A HUGE 3-0 home win against fellow promotion contenders Evesham United maintained Didcot Town's Evo-Stik South West play-off charge.

It took three second half goals from Felipe Barcelos George Jeacock and Olli Thomas to secure the points for Diddy

The Railwaymen overtook their hosts who slipped out of the play offs into fourth place with the win

Following a goalless first half, the game exploded into life with a couple of quickfire Didcot goals from Barcelos and Jeacock.

Thomas wrapped up the points in added time with a wonderful 25-yard strike that shot into the top corner

Kidlington lost their first game at Yarnton Road since August with a 2-1 home defeat against Larkhall Athletic.

The Larks took the lead when Matt Britton side footed home on 69 minutes.

Mark Janes nodded in the equaliser less thas 10 minutes later but the away side won the game thanks to an 83rd minute Joe Tumelty thunderbolt.

Struggling North Leigh s winless 2018 continued with a 5-0 hammering at Wimborne Town. The Millers are now winless in 10 matches

Meanwhile in the East division, Thame United s inconsistent form continued with their third defeat in six matches, a run that also includes three wins

United lost 1-0 at Bedford Town, leaving them in 11th place on 42 points from 27 games 12 points off the play offs with games in hand.

Young U's to face Luton in final at Kassam

THE young U's will get a chance to show what they can do on a bigger stage when they welcome Luton Town in the regional final of the League Cup next month.

Oxford United's Under 18s will do battle with the Hatters youngsters at the Kassam Stadium with the winners set for a final against Wigan Athletic or Hartlepool United.

The game on March 31 will give the current crop of promising United young'uns a chance to play at Gresnble Road for the first time

Oxford, who beat Exeter City in the last round, normally play their home games at Abingdon United s Northcourt Road but can look forward to a bigger occasion at the Kassam this time around.

Youth team coach Leon Blackmore Such said: 'We d like to thank everyone who has made it possible to play the game at the stadium.

"It's a big thing for the lads and I know they are really going to be looking forward to the game now

"It s not just about playing on the pitch it s also about the whole experience."

He added: "It's the day after the first team play Scunthorpe at home so hopefully fans will come along and enjoy a game of football on a Saturday and we can get a decent crowd in to create a great atmosphere for the boys."

The regional final will kick off at 11am with ticket details to be announced by the club.

Teen's flying visit to captain Under 19s

IT was a hectic few days for young Canice Carroll who clocked up the air miles captaining Ireland Under 19s to a win against Romania in between Oxford United games

The right back was on the bench for United s defeat at Rotherham on Tuesday last week, after which he flew out to meet up with the rest of the Irish squad.

The teenager who turned 19 last month, missed the 1-0 friendly win against Romania on the Tuesday but skippered the side to a 2-1 victory against the same opposition in Murcia on Thursday

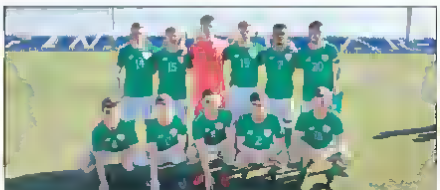
Carroll said it was an "honour" to captain the youth international side.

He packed his bags again and flew back to Oxford the same day to train with the U's on Friday ahead of Oxford's 1-0 loss at home to Plymouth on Saturday

Carroll, who has made 16 appearances for United this season, took his place on the bench again for the match.

The defender is yet to feature under caretaker manager Derek Fazackerley, with his last appearance being in Pep Clotet's last game in charge a 2-1 home defeat to Bury on January 20 Carroll s only goal for the club came in the 3-2 loss at Bradford on December 30

Two second-half goals from Shamrock Rovers' Aaron Dobbs currently on loan at Wexford, secured back-to-back wins for Ireland.



Canice Carroll (no.2) captained Ireland Under 19s for the first time Picture *PA Ireland*

SkyBet League 1		GP	GD	PTS
1	Blackburn Rovers	33	28	66
2	Shrewsbury Town	33	17	65
3	Wigan Athletic	30	30	63
4	Rotherham United	33	18	59
5	Scunthorpe United	34	12	56
6	Charlton Athletic	32	4	51
7	Plymouth Argyle	34	0	50
8	Bradford City	33	-2	50
9	Portsmouth	34	0	49
10	Peterborough United	32	8	46
11	Gillingham	34	1	46
12	Bristol Rovers	33	-3	45
13	Southend United	33	-6	44
14	Doncaster Rovers	34	0	42
15	Oxford United	33	-2	41
16	Walsall	32	-3	41
17	Blackpool	33	-4	39
18	AFC Wimbledon	33	9	37
19	Northampton Town	34	22	37
20	Fleetwood Town	33	11	36
21	Oldham Athletic	33	12	36
22	MK Dons	32	15	30
23	Bury	33	23	28
24	Rochdale	28	11	25

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Fight and belief will help us improve performance

By George Welch

Oxford United 0

Plymouth Argyle 1

Sonny Bradley 45+3

Attendance: 8,301 (1,802 away)

STRUGGLING Oxford United slipped to within five points of the League One relegation zone with a narrow 1-0 loss at home to in-form Plymouth Argyle on Saturday.

The result was not much of a surprise given the current form table but even a much improved performance could not stop the U's falling to a fifth defeat in six matches.

Sonny Bradley's header in first half stoppage time proved to be the winner as sorry United lost their third successive match at the Kassam.

Midfielder Ryan Ledson admitted the squad is suffering from a lack of confidence, but that he was encouraged by an improved performance.

The 20-year-old said: "We passed them off the park in the first half. [but] we've got to keep striving forward and hopefully put in more performances like that.

"It was our final ball or shot that let us down. We were getting into the positions, it's just time to put them away. There's maybe a lack of belief. Every team would be down with the run we're on – but we've got to keep fighting and believing."

Oxford are struggling for confidence and, on another day, James Henry and Alex Mowatt would have scored their first half chances. The latter was particularly culpable, blazing horribly wide from a Todd Kane cut back.

Isaac Buckley-Ricketts is tackled by Sonny Bradley who went on to score Plymouth's goal and net the three points

Caretaker boss Derek Fazackerley noticed an all-round improvement from his players.

He said: "The performance was head and shoulders above the previous week [a 2-1 home defeat to Bristol Rovers] when we were critical of the players.

"We asked them to play with courage, discipline and control and I thought they did that.

"We pretty much had them on the back foot for most of the second half but just couldn't find a clear cut opening."

Former United striker Ryan Taylor struck Simon Eastwood's bar and Kane cleared a Graham Carey effort off the line as the Pilgrims hunted a second goal.

Oxford, 15th on 41 points, became more threatening when Gino van Kessel and Malachi Napa were introduced but the U's just could not force an opening.

Fazackerley admitted his side faces a "tough" fixture when they travel to Northampton Town, who sit one place above the relegation zone, on Saturday.

Rothwell out for few weeks with injury

THERE was good news and bad news from the Oxford United treatment room this week.

Midfielder Joe Rothwell, pictured, limped off in the first half of Saturday's defeat to Plymouth Argyle and had a scan on Monday.

The bad news is that he will miss the next few weeks but the good news is that the injury was not as bad as it first appeared.

United's head of sports science and medicine said on Tuesday that there was no tear as first feared. Instead, there is "a relatively small irritation" at the top of the 23-year-old's hamstring.

Andrew Procter added: "It's not related to his previous injury and it's certainly not a dramatic tear, it's just bad luck that he picks up a new injury after successfully coming back from the last one.

"So now we know precisely what we are dealing with and can start working with Joe to get him out on the pitch again.

"We have to be careful with it and we won't be setting timescales on his return until everything settles down a little but he has a fantastic attitude, understands what needs to be done and hopefully he won't be out for too long."

The former Manchester United trainee has scored five goals in 32 appearances for the U's this season.

■ Right back Sam Long, 23, has extended his initial month stay at Hampton & Richmond Borough for a further month.

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